

マギクラフトマイスター

1

秋ぎつね
AKIGITSUNE



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1



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Akigitsune



Magi Craft Meister

- Volume 1 -

Kaina Village Arc

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– SYNOPSIS –

There is only one Magi Craft Meister in the world. After the death of the last Meister over one thousand years ago, Jin Nidou was transported to another world in order to succeed her will.

After obtaining the knowledge of the Magi Craft Meister, Jin attempts to use a warp gate but it malfunctions, transporting him to an unknown world. Along with that, an automata he recently restored also uses the warp gate in order to search for her “father”. Thus, the crafting journey of the new Magi Craft Meister begins!

マギクラフト マスター

人物紹介

Lithia

Golem

Maid
Golem

Hanna

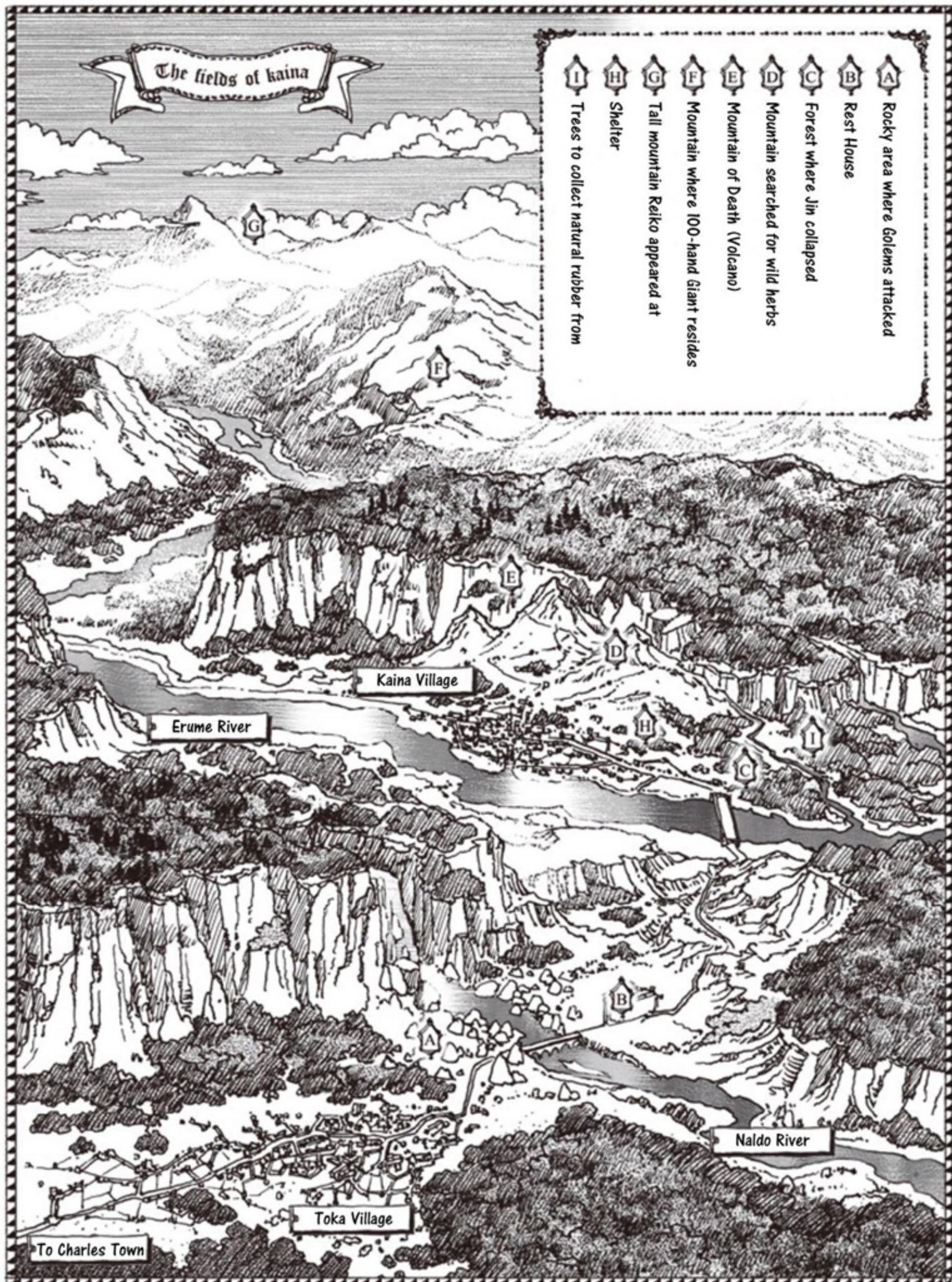
Martha

Nidoh Jin

Automata
Reiko



He worked and played in Kaina Village during the day, coming back to the research facility at night to work on it for about 3 hour. And like that, several days passed and the Maid Golems were constructed.



PROLOGUE 1

EPILOGUE OF TWO WORLDS

Nidoh Jin was an orphan. As a child, Nidoh was abandoned in front of an orphanage and from then on raised in the orphanage.

His hobby is handicrafts. His specialty is also handicrafts. However the orphanage did not provide the satisfactory environment he wanted, so he decided his own path.

「Jin-nii, make an airplane~!」

「Okay~」

From the top, for the young boys he started with a bamboo-copter, then stilts, a boomerang, a kite, and then finally the model plane.

After graduating from middle school, he worked part-time while attending high school part-time.

「Onii-chaan, I want a doll~」

「I got it, I got it, just wait a little bit」

And for the girls, he made origami and stuffed dolls. Thanks to learning how to make detailed dresses, he was also able to sew normal clothes.

「You're so skilful Jin. You've been a great help.」

Jin's foster parent, the director praised him for every little thing.

「Jin, it might be troublesome but could you repair the roof leak?」

「Leave it to me」

He handled the carpentry jobs in general, from the repairs of the house to making the chairs and tables.

After graduating, he found employment at a certain company. He entered the company's dormitory and left the orphanage.

All the children cried, reluctantly parting from him,

「Everyone, this won't be the last time we see each other. On my days off I'll come visit with a gift and play with all of you, okay?」

And according to his word, when Sunday came, he visited the orphanage with a gift he bought with his pay.

◊ – ◊ – ◊

Another space, another time, another world that was not Earth.

There, one witch... a magic user's life was ending.

「... listen... this laboratory... everything of mine... entrust it to someone... that someone... somehow... find... them... I'm counting on... you...」

「Yes • Mother」

She was a 《Magi Craft Meister》. She entrusted her successor to the 《Automata》 she poured her everything into to construct and died silently.

◊ – ◊ – ◊

The company Jin joined was not a so-called black company, but it was still a considerably harsh place. The occupation was not particularly written, the only day off is Sunday, there was no unpaid overtime though, but people at the dormitory were often abruptly called in.

Being a high school graduate, Jin was worked especially hard, resulting in his fatigue accumulating.

「Jin-nii, you don't seem well」

The children at the orphanage were also worried.

「Work must be demanding right? Don't push yourself, you should at least take a rest on Sundays」

But even though the director had said that to him, he considered playing with the children his rest and ignored her advice.

◊ – ◊ – ◊

The 『Automata』 continued to search for its new master, the 『Successor』. Its only lead was the 『Wavelength』 and 『Waveform』.

Able to identify a human's individuality by their 『Wavelength』 and 『Waveform』, the 『Automata』 continued to search for a human with a 『Wavelength』 and 『Waveform』 that closely resembled its master.

「This world • probably • not it」

The probability of finding someone the same or very similar was extremely small, the 『Automata』 could not find the 『Successor』 even after 100 years had past.

◊ – ◊ – ◊

「Nidoh, sorry, but can you take care of this」

「Okay」

Jin was passed various jobs to settle. Sorting documents, contract confirmation and so on were the good ones, and then there was dealing with customer claims as well as defective product servicing and withdrawal. This time, Jin is repairing the internal LAN that ran into some trouble.

All of this was because Jin had knowledge in a wide variety of fields.

◊ – ◊ – ◊

「Insufficient · Mana · Available · To · Access · Other World」

The 《Automata》 was given an enormous amount of knowledge, and knowing it had insufficient magic power to access the other dimension, it developed a way to compensate for that.

◊ – ◊ – ◊

「Aah, I guess I'm a little tired...」

Jin walked around with dark circles under his eyes. It was understandable. This was the 3rd day that he hadn't slept.

Today's job was a system check for a certain iron manufacturer.

◊ – ◊ – ◊

「World 2367 · Failure. Continuing · World 2368 · Scan · Starting」

With the perseverance only an inorganic being could have, the 《Automatic》 continued to search for the 『Successor』.

◊ – ◊ – ◊

「Umm... temperature control, error... This must be it, the wire must have been cut somewhere.」

Jin followed the sensor wire that led to the electric furnace.

◊ – ◊ – ◊

「World 3601 · · · · · LOCATED!」

The search that lasted for 1000 years had ended, finally the 《Automata》 had found the 『Successor』.

「Summoning • Ritual • Activation Commencing」

◇ – ◇ – ◇

「It sure is hot. Even though the furnace is stopped, the melted iron below is still hot.」

Although the electric furnace doesn't operate during the occasional check, the large amount of melted iron wouldn't cool down so easily.

「Aah, here it is! The iron scraps must have collided with it.」

The electric furnace melts the iron using arc discharge, producing a number of raw materials and iron scraps. A section of the sensor wire seems to have been damaged from this.

◇ – ◇ – ◇

「Summoning Magic Circle • Constructing. Bestow • Special Characteristics • Knowledge of Language」

The means to communicate is similar for any world.

「Activate!」

Before the 《Automata》, something emerged from the magic circle composed of complex magic language.

◇ – ◇ – ◇

「With this I'm... done!」

Jin finished replacing the parts. At that moment, slipping out of his hand, his tool dropped.

「Oh crap!」

Reflexively he extended his hand out towards the ladle inside the electric furnace. In other words, the place where the melted iron accumulated.

「Uwa!」

Leaving behind a short scream, Jin's body fell down towards the ladle.

At that time,

「My life insurance, I hope it goes to the orphanage...」

was Jin's last thought in this world.

PROLOGUE 2

SUCCESSOR'S BIRTH

「A ceiling I don't recognise...」

Jin woke up in 『this』 world. There are words of a promise.

「Are you • awake • Master?」

Hearing that voice Jin got up in surprise and saw a beautiful girl. Black hair, black eyes, and pale skin. A height of about 120cm, an elementary student? The clothes she wore were similar to a maid's.

「Umm... who are you?」

「I am • an automata. A name • I do not possess」

Her answer left Jin unable to reply and he began to gather his thoughts,

(Automata... I think Europe produced marionettes... but there weren't any this elaborate were there?)

Then Jin noticed, what he had heard was not Japanese. Furthermore it wasn't English, French, German or any other language he knew.

「Umm... so, were you the one that saved me?」

For now, he decided to ask questions one by one to confirm the situation.

「To say • saved • is slightly • incorrect. I had • simply • called • Master • here」

「Then, where am I?」

「Mother's • Laboratory」

「Mother, that would be the person who created you, is that right?」

「That is correct」

「Where is that person?」

「Passed away • 1024 years • 8 months • 27 days • ago」

Passed away... he didn't know the word the 《Automata》 said, however the word was similar to a formal old fashioned Japanese word and Jin used that to understand the meaning of what she said.

「I... I see」

1024 years, 8 months and 27 days. That is to say this 《Automata》 has been operating for that unthinkable amount of time.

「So, why have you called me here?」

「For you • to succeed • Mother's • everything」

「To succeed her everything? ...un, could you be a bit more specific?」

「Understood. Everything would be • this laboratory • and also • Mother's • magic techniques. Is this explanation sufficient?」

Although it was brief and he wanted to ask for more, he understood the main points.

「To put it simply, I'm to succeed your 『Mother』 who is a magic user, that's what you mean right?」

「Yes • that is correct」

A language he has never heard of, there was an unimaginable 《Automata》 in existence, and a place that was not Earth, it did not take long for Jin to understand

this. To begin with, he should have fallen into the ladle of the electric furnace. The intense heat, he could still remember the feeling of it burning his body.

「So, did you heal me?」

If that was true, magic is amazing, was what he thought while he asked to confirm,

「No · I did not · do such · a thing」

she said stopping that thought. Though,

「In order to · transfer over · the outer world · magic power · is used · in proportion · to compensate · for a · new self · is the explanation」

「Then when transferring to another world, magic power will compensate for the damages to the body...?」

Jin looked to examine the changes to his body. Left hand. The scar from when he accidentally cut his thumb with a knife in elementary school was gone. Right leg. There was no trace of a dog bite. Feeling with his hands, even his back with a scald from hot water being spilt on it was now clean and smooth.

And when Jin finished confirming, he finally noticed he was naked.

「UWAAAAAAA!」

Although the other party was an 《Automata》, because no matter how he looked at it, the only thing he could see was a beautiful girl, so this kind of reaction was natural..

「Master? What · is the · matter?」

An 《Automata》 is an 《Automata》, however being stared at with a face without worry was all the more embarrassing for Jin.

For now Jin wrapped a bed sheet around his body and calmed down, reconsidering the situation.

(Anyways, I was on the verge of being burnt to death... or rather I was saved by this child 『calling』 my body that was mostly burnt to death)

(I probably can't return back to my former world, it's inevitable that the other side will probably think I'm dead)

(The director and children at the orphanage will definitely be sad... sorry everyone)

After careful consideration, Jin had resolved himself.

「So, what exactly am I supposed to do?」

He asked the 《Automata》 standing silently before him. Then,

「Could you • please • follow me • this way?」

With that said, the 《Automata》 led him out of the room. Jin followed after her with his body wrapped in a bed sheet. Although having no shoes bothered him, there was carpet spread along the floor, so there was no need to worry about his feet getting hurt.

After leaving the room into the corridor, Jin had been observing the structure of the building. He had some general knowledge in architecture .

The wall and ceiling were made from a milky white coloured substance. The texture was similar to quartz and also because it gave off a dim light, there was no inconvenience to walking. Different from EL, it was a mysterious glow.

「This light, is it magic?」

When he asked, the 《Automata》 walking in front of him,

「Yes • it is. An eternal light • caused by • ether」

Another word that he didn't understand came out, for now Jin decided to refrain from asking about it.

Judging from the guide around so far, this 『Laboratory's』 was about the size of a city's elementary school, although that was a considerably vague estimate Jin made. The 《Automata》 then stopped before a single door.

「Here we • are」

On the door, there were very detailed carvings.

「I • am not • permitted • to open it, only the • new • master • possesses • the privilege • to open it」

「I understand」

Although he didn't know what might happen, Jin resolutely touched the door...

「... stay composed」

「Master, please • pull it」

Instead of pulling, he had been pushing the door. He was extremely nervous as expected.

「I... I know!」

With a face flushed red, this time Jin opened the door and stepped inside. Thereupon, the dim room suddenly lit up.

「Uwaa」

For a moment he was bewildered by the dazzling light, but when he noticed it was just lights being lit, he was able to regain his composure and Jin began to look around the room.

The room was like a study, it simply had a sturdy desk and chair and on the desk was a large watermelon sized crystal ball. There was also a single volume of a book on it.

Speaking of which, besides that was a bookshelf fully packed with books. As expected it was a study, was what Jin thought.

The room had a refreshing feeling and not even a speck of dust, as if someone had been using the room until just now. For some reason or another, Jin sat down on the chair. Then suddenly, the crystal ball started to shine.

「W-What is it?」

「Welcome, my 《Successor》 」

At the same time as the voice spoke, the face of an old woman appeared on the crystal ball.

「My name is Adrianna Balbora Ceci. A user of magic, a magician. And I am also the only 《Magi Craft Meister》 in the world.」

「My Mother」

The 《Automata》 standing behind Jin added on to her words. It seems she was able to enter after the door was opened.

「I have continued researching the connection between devices and the phenomenon called magic. The result of that research is this laboratory. It is a shame though that my fellow magicians would not accept my research」

Somehow there was a tinge of sorrow in that voice.

「Nevertheless, I believe there is a meaning to my research. However, it is regrettable that I was unable to prove it while I am still alive.」

Her words paused for a moment, and then resumed.

「I... I wish to hand over everything I have compiled to the person to succeed my will. How you use it 《Successor》, it is up to you. The details I hope for you to see will be in the records.」

The voice ended, and the face on the crystal ball faded away.

「Records... perhaps it's this book?」

He reached out to the book next to the crystal ball. And then, this time the book lit up as soon as his hand touched the cover...

「Uwawawa!？」

The content inside literally surged into Jin's head. This had happened in an instant.

「...」

The light settled down, the book was no longer there, and in its place was the 《Magi Craft Meister》 Jin, the legitimate 《Successor》 to Adrianna Balbora Ceci.

「So this is magic...」

Due to the inherited knowledge, he could feel the magic power within his body and understood how to use it. As well as the risks.

「Adrianna Balbora Ceci, thank you. This power, I will definitely put it to good use.」

When Jin said that towards the crystal ball, its light disappeared...

「With this • I have • fulfilled • my... duty」

Leaving those words, the 《Automata》 broke down and fell apart.

PROLOGUE 3

DEPARTURE

「... so hungry」

From the technology and knowledge Jin had inherited from the 《Magi Craft Meister》, Adrianna Balbora Ceci, there was no magic to create food from nothing.

Just barely, he was able to create water using water magic so he wouldn't die from dehydration, however being without food was fatal.

He made clothes for himself. The sewing skills he had refined wasn't just for show. He had used a suitable fabric he found on a shelf.

For now, Jin took a brief tour around the research facility. The knowledge he had gained was, how to say, like reading a reference book or a dictionary, it was somewhat different to recalling a memory.

In regards to magic, he was able to get the knack of using magic after using it once, but it takes some time to look up magic he hasn't used before.

So, back to what was being said. There was no food stored in this research facility. Rather, he definitely wouldn't eat even if there was food from 1000 years ago. No... he probably wouldn't eat.

「Nnn, this goes here」

If one was to say what Jin was doing, it would be repairing the 《Automata》, or more precisely he was restoring it.

Breaking into pieces after fulfilling its duty, the state it was in was pitiful. Originally, Jin had created dolls for the orphanage children, and it was in his nature to see if he could repair broken devices and machines.

「My predecessor sure was amazing. The frame is almost identical to a human」

The inside of this 《Automata》 had a frame just like a human, with 《Magic Fibre》 used for the muscles, and synthetic 《Magic Skin》 used for the skin.

In place of the organs there is an 《Ether Converter》 and a 《Mana Drive》, and in charge of thought processes is an elaborate 《Control Core》.

「The frame is in pieces and doesn't seem like it can be repaired..... it would probably be quicker to make a new one」

With that said, using a light metal found in the underground storage room, he rebuilt the frame. Although rather than build, it was quite easy as it was simply processing it with magic to the same dimensions as the original.

After that, he used the rare 《Light Silver》, although he did not understand its worth because he had plenty. Usually 1kg of 《Light Silver》 could build a mansion, but he used it without care only because it had a high affinity with magic.

「Putting the 《Ether Converter》 like this will increase the efficiency... also doing this will downsize the 《Mana Drive》」

He made models to get the gist of what to improve while rebuilding it. The magic power of words, or in other words the soul of language, 《Magi Language》 was inscribed, and then he noticed that for some reason Japanese, as well as kanji greatly increase the performance, so he decided to rewrite it all in Japanese.

「Should I make new 《Magic Fibre》 and 《Magic Skin》 or should I keep them as they are? No, 《Magic Fibre》 seems to have room for improvement... as for 《Magic Skin》, if it were to change then the appearance would be altered. Ah, but I'll need to apply a lasting 《Reinforce》」

Gradually Jin became engrossed, and because of that, he did not notice the specs that the predecessor made abnormal were becoming even more abnormal.

「Finally the 《Control Core》, huh? It looks like it could break at any moment... and there wasn't any in the storage room was there...」

In a tunnel underneath the research facility, there was a countless amount of magic dolls classified as golems that, slowly, but without resting, continually dug out useful resources. For 1000 years in fact. That amount was unimaginable to think of, and to Jin it was inconceivable. The golems had a simple structure so as long as their magic power does not deteriorate they would continue to operate.

「Here they are, there sure is a lot isn't there? Well then, let's use this lovely guy」

The 《Magic Crystal》 used for the original 《Control Core》 was red, however the one Jin took out was iridescent like an opal.

「Transfer the information of the old 《Control Core》 ... great, it worked. This one is large so there is probably still some room. Should I try to copy my knowledge?」

Forgetting hunger, it seems like it was in his nature to be engrossed in creating things.

「... 《Transfer Info》 ...urgh, my brain endured considerably well. As I thought, all my knowledge was impossible, well I guess this is fine」

Transcribing all of Jin's knowledge would take time as expected, so he mainly transcribed knowledge regarding language. Specifically it was Japanese, kanji, kana, the alphabet, etc.

For the whole day, Jin had spent it all on assembling the 《Automata》 .

「All that's left would be clothes」

Trying to put on the clothes, its magic power had shaken off and scattered the dust on its body, and now the 《Automata》 was naked. It was extremely tempting in various ways.

「I've already come this far, I'll see this till the end」

Because he made clothes for himself, none of the fabric he found remained.

It couldn't be helped he thought, and as he expected, he found what he was looking for in the store room. Using the large amount of string from 《Ground Spiders》 as fabric, he used it to create clothes. Making use of his predecessor's loom.

He used fine threads to weave underwear and thick string to weave the outer-garments. It was even able to weave lace, as one would expect of his predecessor.

「The composition of it is the same as the original clothing, but how should I dye the colour?」

Searching for dyes, he quickly found them. He chose a translucent blue. In fact, this was a magic dye which had the effect of warding off demons.

The shoes from the store room were similar to a dark brown colour. In fact, Jin didn't mind that the leather was that of a dragon.

Rather than maid clothes, he finished clothes that were more suitable for an Alice. As a matter of course it was natural, the design was the same as the clothes he made for the dolls for the girls of the orphanage.

「Hmm... well, it has the figure of a child so it should be fine」

Jin was satisfied with what he had finished.

「Well then, the last thing to finish this is the 『Activation』」

To activate it, he poured his magic power into the 『Mana Drive』 but the 『Automata』 laying before his eyes did not move.

「Huh? Did I make a mistake somewhere?」

He checked it, but there was no defect in the performance of the magic circuit.

「Yeah... I have no idea」

At that moment, as though to remind him, his stomach rumbled.

And so, we return to the opening line.

◊ – ◊ – ◊

「Aaaa... so hungry...」

Jin sank down onto the floor.

「At this rate I'm going to starve to death in this research facility...」

Thus, he decided to go outside for the time being.

「Hmm... if I remember correctly, there's a 《Warp Gate》 I can use to easily travel around.」

The knowledge he inherited had told him there was such technology.

「Also, the 《Warp Gate》 to go outside should be on the 1st floor」

His memory, or rather he searched his knowledge for the 《Warp Gate》 that was the gate to the outside world. Just how many 《Warp Gates》 were lined up?

「Oh well, any of them will do, let's just take the 5th one then」

According to his knowledge, the 《Warp Gate》 exits are close to large towns.

He takes 5 gems from the store room to exchange for money. They were small rubies. He judged that it would be difficult to convert into money if it was too big.

「Looks alright. Well then, time to go」

He gets on the magic circle of the 《Warp Gate》, and pours in his magic power. The magic circle immediately operates...

「... something feels odd」

Jin had forgotten. The 《Warp Gates》 were setup more than 1000 years ago. In a 1000 years, towns can perish and the geography of land can change.

The corresponding 《Warp Gate》 of the 《Warp Gate》 Jin was using no longer existed.

「Su-re-ly-it-wo-nt-go-out-of-co-nt-ro-l?」

The magic circle was flickering intensely. The amount of magic power needed to transfer was great. Now that its destination was lost, it began to malfunction.

「This... is... bad...」

He was unable to get off, and just as the magic circle malfunctioned, Jin's figure disappeared from the research facility.

◊ – ◊ – ◊

「... fa...ther?」

The 《Automata》 opened its eyes. Being in the room under the malfunctioning magic circle, it was able to sense that Jin was in danger.

The reason why the activation was so slow was because for its body that had a tremendous magic power capacity, it took time to convert the 《Ether》 in the air to the quantity of 《Mana》 the 《Mana Drive》 needed to activate.

「Father... is gone...」

Having its creator gone, it was the most serious matter for the 《Automata》 .

「I have to... find father」

The 《Automata》 faced its search for its own 《Raison D'être》 , Jin. Readyng a new 《Warp Gate》 to return with, it was now prepared,

「I'm going」

And now another disappeared from the research facility.

All that remained were the golems that dug out resources single-mindedly.

CHAPTER 1

KAINA VILLAGE

「... a ceiling I don't recognise」

The second promise. Jin opened his eyes, noticing that he was laying on a bed. He was wearing his underwear, however his outer-garments were placed atop a table next to him.

He slowly sat up and examined his body. There didn't seem to be anything wrong. If there was, it was that he was extremely hungry.

「.....?」

Sensing someone's gaze, he turned to where he could feel the gaze from and saw someone peeking from the doorway, hiding away when their eyes met. After that he heard the sound of footsteps *patapata* which faded away.

「Was that one of the people living here?」

After muttering that to himself, he examined the room. There were simple wood and clay walls, a plain table, and the bed he was on. It was a very ordinary rural house if he were to guess what it was.

「Oh my, have you come to?」

An elderly woman entered the room. She was definitely a countryside missus. Hidden behind the hem of her skirt, a small child gazed at him. That gaze from before seems to have been this child.

「You collapsed at the entrance of the forest. This child here found you.」

Saying that, she gently pushed out the child hiding behind her skirt. It was a girl with dark blonde hair and reddish brown eyes. 8 years old, or perhaps 9 years old?

「I'm Jin. Nidoh... Jin Nidoh is my name. Thank you very much for helping me. Um, could you tell me where this place is?」

「Jin is it? This place is Kaina Village. A small village in the backcountry」

Even though he was told that, Jin couldn't guess where this place was. At that moment, Jin's stomach magnificently roared.

「Oh dear, you must be hungry... just wait a little bit」

Having said that, the missus left the room. Only Jin and the little girl remained. Jin then said to the little girl,

「So you were the one that found me, thank you. Could you tell me your name?」

Having said that with a tender voice, the shy little girl,

「... Hanna」

was what she answered.

「Hanna-chan is it? Nice to meet you」

When he said that, he held out his hand and Hanna timidly held out her hand, tightly grasping Jin's hand.



「It's done, sorry for the wait」

The missus returned with a pot placed on a tray.

「You must be hungry, eat as much as you want」

Saying that she poured in some gruel-like substance. It gave off a pleasant smell, and Jin frantically ate it. How many days had it been since he had something to eat?

「It won't suddenly disappear so you don't need to hurry so much」

The missus was amazed by Jin's vigour in consuming the gruel.

「Thank you for the meal」

「What was that?」

「Ah, 『gochisousama』 is something like my way of parting with the meal. It's a word of thanks to the people who produced the ingredients and meal I guess. By the way, before you eat you say 『itadakimasu』 ... although I had forgotten to say that.」

「Hmmm, is that so? It's the first time I heard of that. You, Jin, you must have come from considerably far away」

「Yeah... probably」

「Probably? What do you mean by that?」

Jin then gave an obscure explanation. That he had come from another world was kept hidden, he simply said that a malfunctioned 『Warp Gate』 sent him here. However.

「『Warp Gate』? What is that?」

She didn't comprehend.

「Umm. A 『Warp Gate』 is a magic tool that allows you to transfer between 2 places instantly you see...」

「Magic Tool? You couldn't mean to say an 『Artifact』 could you?」

「《Artifact》？」

「What, you don't know about it? An 《Artifact》 is a magic tool created before the 《Great Magic War》」

「Great Magic War?」

Another word he didn't know appeared.

「Really, I wonder where you even came from... The Great Magic War happened 300 years ago, it was a war between humans and demons.」

He did not know that information.

「Could you tell me about it in more detail?」

「I'm astonished. Oh well, I'll leave it be. Until 300 years ago, demons from another continent suddenly attacked. And because of that, until then, the skirmishes caused the destruction of countries. With this, the large country... what was it called again... ah, that's right, Dinaru Kingdom, the Dinaru Kingdom was the only country to remain that opposed the demons.」

「Haa... I see」

300 years ago, that is to say when the 《Automata》 was trying to find Jin, searching for him in other worlds. No wonder he didn't know about it.

「Struggling to survive, it is said that the population of the continent decreased to just one third. At that time, magicians took an active role in the battle, however the demons struggled to the end with 《Ether Stampede》, and more than half the people with magic power were said to have died」

「So that was what happened, huh?」

The war had caused the population to decrease, and the fires of war had burned down civilisation and culture. And the culture of those who were a magician = a noble sharply decreased. So this world hasn't changed from 1000 years ago, rather if things didn't go well he would have been 1000 years too late.

「I understand, thank you for the explanation. So missus, I haven't heard your name yet have I?」

「Oh, that's right. I'm Martha, nice to meet you」

「Martha-san is it? Nice to meet you」

He had heard various other things from Martha. This Kaina Village belongs to the Cline Kingdom and the number of households here is 29.

And right now it was Spring. In this world, 357 days is 1 year, 51 weeks is 1 year, and 1 week is 7 days, this is the same as 1000 years ago, giving Jin a little relief.

Although there was the possibility that the malfunctioned 『Warp Gate』 had sent him to a different world, there was a high probability that this was Adrianna Balbora Ceci's world.

(Oh well)

Jin thought. Anyhow, his life was picked up. His stomach was bulging and he had become quite attached, so Jin got out of bed and put on his outer-garments. In his pocket was a knife and rubies. Taking out 1 ruby,

「Um, as thanks for helping me, please have this」

「What is it? This is...!」

Martha was surprised upon seeing the ruby.

「This is a gem right? I couldn't accept such a thing!」

「But, this is all I have to give you as gratitude」

「I didn't help you because I wanted your gratitude. Listen, please take it back」

Martha scowled at him, so Jin retracted the ruby back.

「But, how can I...」

「Then how about staying at this house for a while and becoming a person that girl can talk to. After losing her parents she has been lonely, that girl」

As an adult, Martha had asked him and Jin thought about it, and he was persuaded from what he heard.

「I understand, though that much is not enough, please let me help you too.」

「Fufu, if that's the case I can agree. Well then, you may use this room for a while.」

To repay the kindness for helping him when he was starving to death, Jin decided to stay in this village for a while.

CHAPTER 2

PUMP

「Good morning Onii-chan」

「Good morning Hanna-chan」

It was the day after Jin decided to stay at Martha's house to repay his debt. Morning. Jin got up and went out to wash his face. Hanna also got up.

「Hanna-chan, I want to wash my face」

saying that,

「Okay, the water well is this way」

she says, walking with a bucket and towel in hand. Jin followed after Hanna. Naturally, Jin held the bucket.

「Here it is」

The water well was placed about 20 metres from Martha's house. The frame was round and made of stone with a roof attached so that rubbish couldn't fall in. And a well bucket hung by a pulley was there to draw the water with.

「Wait just a moment... yoisho, yoisho」

Hanna said that, and her small body began to eagerly pull up the well bucket. Jin became flustered,

「W-Wait Hanna-chan! Do you perhaps do this kind of thing everyday?」

Jin asked her, and Hanna's expression told him that it was natural,

「Yep, that's right」

she answered. Hearing that, Jin began to ponder. Meanwhile Hanna finished drawing the water and poured it into the bucket.

「Onii-chan, you can wash your face first」

Jin became flustered once again, so for now he washed his face. And so,

「Thank you. Then... this time I'll draw the water for Hanna-chan to wash your face.」

hearing that, Hanna smiled cheerfully,

「Okay!」

Along the way back to the house.

「Hanna-chan, isn't drawing the water difficult?」

「Yes, but, I do it because everyone does it too」

Hearing that Jin came up with an idea. There isn't enough material right now so creating a magic device is impossible, but a normal device may be possible.

After breakfast he tried asking Martha.

「Martha-san, is there a blacksmith in this village?」

thereupon Martha face showed a hint of loneliness for a moment,

「My husband was one, however he has long passed away. That's why there isn't any blacksmiths right now. Why do you ask?」

「Well... I just need a little bit of things like iron and copper」

and then,

「Ahh, if that's the case I think there should be some left in my husband's workshop. It's likely covered in dust though. If you want to use it, use it however you like.」

「Thank you very much」

Jin thanked her for guiding him to the workshop. It was behind Martha's house, a 6 tatami sized room. Placed inside was a furnace on the verge of breaking, an anvil covered in dust, a hammer, things like that and rolled in the corner was a considerably large lump of iron and copper.

「If there is only this much I won't be able to make a lot」

Seeing a lump of copper, Jin felt relieved. He then promptly began to work.

「Well then, 『Analyse』 ... copper, as well as tin. Bronze huh? Just about right. By processing this,」

Jin transmuted the lump of bronze using the magic he had learnt. Making a pipe, lever, pin, cylinder, and piston. In other words, Jin was making a pump for the water well.

「Anyway, magic sure is convenient. In the other world, this amount for processing would be impossible without a lathe, milling machine, and casting.」

When he finished making the parts, Hanna came over after clearing away her breakfast.

「Onii-chan, what are you doing?」

「Ah, it's Hanna-chan. Well you see, this pump here is a device that will make it easier to draw the water」

「Make it easier to draw the water?」

「That's right, come take a look」

Jin assembled the main body of the pump, then headed to the water well with the parts such as the main body and pipes. There, Martha and the neighbourhood wives gathered, it was literally a gathering for gossip. It was natural as one would wash their tableware besides the well and you would meet others there at similar times.

「Oh? What is it Jin? What is it that you're holding in your hands?」

「So this is the child Jin that Martha picked up. Hanna-chan is together with him too.」

「Hanna-chan seems to have become surprisingly attached to him. Hey, how old are you?」

The curious group of wives asked many questions, so for the time being Jin suitably answered what he was doing,

「This is a pump, a device so to say」

So he explained.

「Fuun... so, what does this thing do?」

「By installing this here, you can use it to draw the water. It's much more easier to use than the water bucket.」

When Jin had said that, one of the wives,

「You couldn't mean a magic tool? Could you be a magic user?」

is what he heard. Jin smiled,

「It isn't something like a magic tool. It's a common device from where I came from. Well, I can use simple magic though」

so he said, surprising Martha and the others who glanced at him while Jin connected the pipe and the main body of the pump and then fixed the main body to a board which was then placed on the well. Before drawing the water he poured water into the pump to prime it, and now that the water filled the pipe, the preparation were done for now.

「Well then, let's try it out」

Jin began to slowly row the lever. This time he had made a water drawing hand pump, the typical pump for water wells.

When it started clattering and shaking, water came out from the pump.

「Oooohh! This is amazing isn't it!」

「Hey hey, let me use it first!」

However Jin,

「Hold on please. I want Hanna-chan to be the first one to use it... go on now Hanna-chan」

saying that he let Hanna take his place.

「Okay. Umm, I just need to move this stick right?」

After confirming that, Hanna moved the lever up and down. By doing that, water came out. The bucket placed down below caused Jin to panic. The bucket had immediately filled at once.

「How is it Hanna-chan?」

「Yeah, it's a lot easier! Onii-chan, thank you!」

Hanna's face lit up with a smile, causing Jin to feel warm and fluffy inside. After seeing that, the impatient wives began to scramble to use the pump.

「Uwaa, this is so much easier!」

「Yeah, this will really help us in the future」

「Jin-kun is an amazing magic user」

The wives took turns using the pump, bringing a bucket to draw the water. Everyone was surprised at how simple it was compared to using the water bucket.

「Jin, so this was why you wanted the copper. Thank you, this will help a lot」

Martha seemed to be glad. Perhaps because the materials that were covered in dust were reborn into a useful device.

After this Jin checked to confirm that there were no abnormalities with the pump. He then returned home together with Martha and Hanna.

After that, the villagers who heard the rumours about the pump came to see it and the story about how the village's water was installed with a pump became well known.

Hence, Jin received the gratitude of the villagers and remembered their faces.

CHAPTER 3

HOT SPRING

「Onii-chan, over here!」

「Hanna-chan, wait up...」

Today, Jin and Hanna are hiking together... or rather, they came to the mountains to harvest medical herbs.

「Haa... haa... Hanna-chan sure is lively...」

「Yep!」

As expected from someone who grew up here, the foundation of her physique seemed to be different to Jin. Although, Jin had the handicap of carrying the basket.

Furthermore, when he was transferred, his physical strength, stamina, and all that for the supplemented parts of his body that was burnt to tatters were reset to their initial values. In other words, those parts were reverted to the state before his training and the person in question did not notice that.

「Haa... finally reached the top...」

A slightly elevated mountain to the north of the village. The elevation is probably about 200 metres. After an hour of climbing, the scenery came into view.

「Look, there's the village!」

The wind blew Hanna's hair while she pointed into the distance, there he could see a small Kaina Village.

「Ohh, this is a good view」

「Of course!」

The area around the summit is a prairie and looking down, one could get a clear view of the village. Looking back towards the north is a range of tall snow mountains.

「Ahhh, so there's an abundance of water because of this snow」

Although it seemed like a land with little rain, because of the snow on the tall mountains there is plenty of underground water, is what Jin assessed.

And to the west.

「... a bare mountain, huh?」

There was one mountain where neither grass nor trees grew. Looking closely, the mountain surface was yellow in some places and something like steam rose from there.

「Could that be a volcano?」

was what he thought when Hanna,

「Onii-chan, here, take this」

returned with a lot of medical herbs.

「This is a medical herb?」

「Yep. You grind it up and apply it to wounds. Drying this one here will make medicine」

It seems to be called a salve and decoction. Jin used what Hanna had brought as a sample to search for medical herbs.

The two were able to harvest the target amount immediately. Although they were prohibited from being greedy and taking too much.

「Well then, shall we have lunch?」

「Yeah!」

Bread and a fruit like an apple. He shared it with her and ate.

「It's delicious」

「Yes it is. As expected, eating it in this place makes no difference」

Jin observed the volcano and its topography while eating. Hanna noticed where he was looked.

「Onii-chan, are you looking at the Mountain of Death」

「Mountain of Death?」

「Yep. The birds that approach the mountain fall down. Sometimes there's also a strange smell. The adults said it was 『Miasma』」

「Miasma?」

Volcano gas. Hydrogen sulphide and sulphur dioxide is poisonous to living things that inhale it. It isn't funny even with that kind of name.

「I see, it's alright as long as we don't get close to it. Well then, let's go home」

「Yeah!」

The objective to harvest the medical herb was finished and having just eaten lunch, they slowly descended. Dangerous beasts don't appear in this region so it is an important harvesting ground for the village.

「Also demons won't appear」

Because from the story he heard from Martha, at the time of the 『Magic War』, it seems that most of the demons and beasts that lived on this continent were destroyed. The remaining demons retreated to the north.

「We're home grandma」

「Welcome back Hanna, Jin」

Martha welcomed us home.

「Ah, you're covered in sweat」

「Go fetch some water over there and wipe your body.」

「Yesss」

Hanna quickly took off her clothes and began wiping her body. She was only 8 years old and Jin was able to watch her calmly. Jin had bathed the children at the orphanage and he was not fazed. There wasn't any feeling of them growing up.

「After all, I want to take a bath」

Although drawing water is now easier with the installation of the pump, fuel is valuable. It is a luxury to be able to bathe in hot water.

「Could it perhaps be a hot spring?」

Jin finished wiping his body and looked towards the mountain. Based on the topography of the volcano, there must be a hot spring underground with a hot spring vein.

「I guess there's no other choice but to check it with magic, huh?」

Even if he has the knowledge, Jin was still not accustomed to the thought of using magic.

「Hmm... I think there was something in the earth attribute magic」

He searched for the necessary magic as if turning the pages of a dictionary in his brain and he found the magic he needed.

「... alright. 《Grand Search》 . Modifying Target 《Hot Spring》 」

Originally this magic is for finding ore veins, but it was rearranged a little to find hot spring veins. The title of 《Magi Craft Meister》 is not just for show.

「There. One... two... alright, lets go with this one」

Of the hot spring veins flowing underground, he selected those that flowed near the village with an abundance of hot spring water. Next was to decide a location.

「Onii-chan, where are you going?」

Finding Jin who was about to head out, Hanna drew close.

「Yeah, I'm going to make a hot spring. Want to come?」

「Yup!」

Although she didn't know what a hot spring was, Hanna was happy she got to go out together with Jin.

「Well, I can't just make a hot spring without permission」

With that said, Jin first headed to the village chief's house.

「Ah! It's Jin-niichan!」

「Jin-niichan, where are you heading to?」

In regards to the pump, the village was grateful for it and is already familiar with him. The children are especially attached to Jin.

One after another, the children followed Jin who knocked on the village chief's door.

「What is it? Oh? It's Jin! Do you need something?」

A middle-aged man appeared. He is the Chief of Kaina Village, Gibekku.

「Yes, I'd like to ask you a little something」

「What do you want to ask?」

Jin explained about digging up a hot spring and building a cabin there as well as the materials he needed.

「I see, so what you're saying is that you want to dig up a well of hot water and build a cabin there, right? There is no reason for me to object. Rather, by all means I want you to build it. Is there anything in particular you need?」

Because the village chief understood the usefulness of a bathhouse, the discussion ended quickly.

「Hmm, I'll need wood to build the cabin」

「A simple request. Go ahead and take some from the lumber yard!」

「Thank you for your help」

Having received permission, Jin immediately headed to the site he chose. In the middle of the village was a place that was slightly hollow.

「Alright. This is definitely it!」

After confirming the hot spring vein with 《Grand Search》 he first made a bathtub with earth magic. Second is to cool it down from hot to lukewarm. Extending it out, he made it shallow, enough to cover the body.

「Ohhhhh! Amazing!!!」

「Jin is amazing!」

The children that followed him looked with interest and were not afraid of Jin using magic. Because they've never seen a race of magicians before, they did not hold any prejudice.

「Alright, with this the bathtub is OK」

Next is the cabin. Although it's really just four standing pillars with a roof placed on. The children that came, helped carry the logs together.

「One, two! One, two」

「Be careful not to let it fall!」

「It's fine~」

「Well then, please hold it down for a moment」

The children helped a little with various things to complete the cabin. For now a wooden board was set on top for a roof

「It's about time I dig up the hot spring. I'll continue 『Digging』 then 『Hardening』」

He dug a hole to the hot spring vein while hardening the exterior as a substitute for a pipe. Hot water seethed out right away.

「Yep, the temperature is hot enough. Or rather, it's too hot! Owowowow!」

The hot water started rushing up and quickly accumulated. Meanwhile, he dug a hole to a water vein, mixing the hot water with cold water.

Using the pipe he poured a reasonable ratio of hot water and cold water into the bathtub.

「Okay, the hot spring is now complete!」

「Ohhh!」

「Nii-chan, can you swim here?」

To the children that didn't know,

「No no. This is a place where you clean your body and wash away fatigue. Thus by helping me, you have the privilege to be the first to bathe in it」

「Oooh~」

「Hooray!」

The children immediately take off their clothes and rush stark naked towards the bathtub. Both boys and girls. Well they are children, is the strange understanding Jin came to.

「Before you enter, pour some hot water on your body」

While paying attention, Jin also took off his clothes.

「Uwaaaa, it feels so good!」

「Hey hey, don't frolic around too much」

The children were delighted with their first hot spring, swimming, running and frolicking about in the bathtub.

「Onii-chan」

Hanna came over to Jin.

「Obaa-chan will definitely be pleased!」

「Yeah, I hope so」

The village gladly accepted the hot spring Jin made and furthermore, a decision was made to increase the number of bathtubs.

The properties of the hot spring that made the skin smooth became very popular with the women, and the cabin was simple yet sturdy.

Men and women were separated as well as the dressing rooms, it had become completely like an actual hot spring.

CHAPTER 4

PEDLAR

The season has changed to an early summer from spring.

「...it's been nearly two months, huh?」

It has nearly been two months since Jin came to Kaina Village. During that time he has installed a pump, dug a hot spring, and maintained the drainage. He has also built a bicycle trailer and a wheelbarrow.

He created the bicycle trailer because it looked like it was difficult for Hanna to carry the water. As for when he made the wheelbarrow, it was surprisingly convenient and gained popularity so one was deployed to each family.

Right now, Jin was playing a game of tag with the children. Up till now, this world, or at least this village did not have the concept of playing. They are able to play because there is no distinction of women, and now playing has become popular.

「This time Jin-niichan is the oni」

「Alright it's my turn. I'll count to 10 now. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8...」

All the children run away.

「9... 10!」

「Okay, here I come!」

「Waaaah!」

Martha gazed at the heartwarming scene.

「After Jin came, that girl 《Hanna》 has become extremely lively even though she was grieving after her parents died」

「Alright, I've caught the first one」

Because of the increasing oni rule, the oni gradually increased. It ended once everyone has become an oni.

「Got you Hanna-chan~」

「Caught you Kurt!」

「Wait up Mario!」

「I'll catch you Jessie!」

They continued until it became dark. After that they washed their sweaty body in the hot spring, coming home with a refreshed look on their face.

Recently, it felt like Hanna's hair had been getting more lustrous. From a dull gold to a shiny gold. Could it be an effect of the hot spring? Arriving home, Jin followed after Hanna who trotted in.

「I'm home~」

「We're back」

「Welcome home Hanna, Jin」

Martha who was preparing dinner, greeted them home.

「You must be hungry, I'll have something ready soon」

「Sorry for having you make my share all the time」

「It's fine, my life has been much more comfortable than it was before thanks to you」

In fact, the need to carry the water was drastically reduced to the point that the hot water from the hot spring could be used for washing. It was considerably convenient.

「Okay, it's done!」

「Wow, this is delicious!」

Tonight's menu is fried eggs and stir-fried vegetables.

「There isn't much salt left so you'll have to put up with it being lightly seasoned」

Martha sounded apologetic. Hearing that, Jin asks her.

「Oh, I see. But isn't it a problem if there's no salt?」

「It's fine, I can just buy some from Roland who will probably be coming tomorrow or the day after.」

「Roland?」

Not being familiar with the name, Jin asked again.

「Roland is a pedlar. About once every two months, he comes to sell fabric, clothes, salt or sugar, a variety of dried fish, and all kinds of food.」

「I see」

As expected, it seems impossible to be self-sufficient.

「Then I'll need money」

Before he could say that the rubies he brought was his living expenses, Martha interrupted him.

「There's no need for money, you'll need to barter. Because this is a remote village, there's no means to earn any money.」

Roland also has information, although Martha wryly smiled when she said that.

◇ – ◇ – ◇

As Martha said, the next day at noon, a single wagon appeared. A large wagon drawn by two horses. Riding it were two people.

The village chief, Gibekku welcomed them.

「Oh! Roland-san, welcome. Eric-san hasn't seemed to change either.」

Roland looked like a sturdy 40 year old man, Eric was a tender-looking man not yet 20. You can tell they are parent and child from their hair and looks. The two carried a short sword on their waist. Probably for self defence.

「Greetings. The village chief also seems to be in good health.」

「Thank you. My niece has been looking forward to Eric's return.」

Hearing that, Eric's face lit up red. He seemed to have feelings for the village chief's niece. Ignoring Eric, Roland continued.

「We were ahead of our schedule by about one or two days. This time we've brought a lot of salt.」

「Oohhh, is that so? That is great.」

Before summer, the demand for salt increased.

Roland immediately parked the horse-drawn carriage at the central square of the village and put out a simple table, lining up the goods on it.



「First of all, for food there is salt, sugar, and the common dried fish. There is also this dark seed. It is resistant to the heat so you can sow it now」

「Can you give me some salt?」

「Yes, it's 1 bag of wheat for 200 grams.」

「How about sugar?」

「Yes, it will be 20 sheets of fur for 2 kilograms」

「Can you distribute a little of the dark seeds for this?」

「Oh, this looks like a good ore. I'll give you a little bonus」

Everyone seems to be exchanging wheat and fur, and occasionally the ore of a jewel. Eric eagerly watched.

When the food was completely bought, Eric helped Roland replace the goods. Now there were fabrics, clothing and tools.

Jin was watching from a little distance away, looking at what kind of tools were being sold.

「Hmm, aside from fabrics and clothes, is that a lantern? Also is that a pen and ink?」

By the way, the village chief had bought a pen and ink.

「I'd like to talk to you later if that's alright」

A talk about outside of the village, and if possible, he wanted to hear about this world was what Jin thought. The next day, they came to give him what they talked about.

◇ – ◇ – ◇

After finishing his business, Roland put his goods and table away into the horse-drawn carriage.

「Well then, let me show you to a nice place」

The village chief said to the two people.

「A nice place?」

「Yes, here it is」

The village chief guided them to the hot spring.

「What is this place? It wasn't here when we last came was it?」

「Yes, it was only completed a few days ago. It is called a 『Hot Spring』 」

「Hot spring is it?」

「Well anyway, please enter」

The feeling of entering the hot spring was not just that of hot water, needless to say, Roland and Eric were surprised.

CHAPTER 5

CONTRACT

The next morning.

「Jin, are you there?」

After breakfast, the village chief came to Martha's house.

「Yes?」

「Oh, Jin, do you have a moment?」

「Yes, what do you need?」

The village chief wryly smiled.

「Haha, it's nothing much. Roland, the pedlar staying here wanted to have a little talk with you」

「Oh, so that's it. It's fine with me」

「I see, then is alright if we go immediately?」

Thus Jin headed to the village chief's house.

「Nice to meet you, I'm the pedlar Roland. Thank you for accepting my invitation」

「I'm his son Eric, it is an honour to meet you」

Roland and Eric who were waiting at the village chief's house politely greeted Jin when he came. They were definitely merchants.

「Yes, nice to meet you. I'm called Jin Nidoh」

The three men then sat around the table. The village chief was also there. Right after that, a young girl came along carrying tea.

「Here you go」

「Oh, thank you Barbara」

Jin remembered in the corner of his mind that she was the village chief's niece, but then immediately shifted his attention back to the others.

「So, what was it you wanted to talk about?」

Jin was the first to talk. Then Roland answered him.

「Well it's nothing much... the things that weren't here two months ago when I last visited have me curious」

「Ahhh, the hot spring you mean」

「Yes. There's also the pump, that water drawing tool. Are you really the one who made those?」

「That's right, is there something about it?」

With a face that held some suspicion, he asked Jin.

「Uhh no, umm, Jin-san was it? You're quite a young lad. Where did such a young 『Magic Craftsman』 learn from?」

「『Magic Craftsman』?」

It was the first time he heard of that term. He knew of the title 『Magi Craft Meister』 that he succeeded, but he had not heard of the title 『Magic Craftsman』.

「Oh? Have you not heard of it? That is unexpected. 『Magic Craftsman』 is the general term for people who make tools using magic」

「I see...」

Indifferent to his reply, Roland changes the topic.

「Come to think of it, where did you come from?」

Jin used this opportunity to confirm his thoughts.

「Umm, well you see... I found a 《Warp Gate》 by chance, and as a result I was transferred here. Because of that, I do not know where I was sent and neither do I know where my home is exactly」

「《Warp Gate》? I feel like I may have heard of it before... Eric, do you know about it?」

「If I remember correctly, I think that was a name of an 《Artifact》 I learnt about. It allows you to transfer between two points」

That was the first time Eric opened his mouth since his greeting.

「This guy attended Cecilio Magic School until just last year so he knows a little bit about magic.」

The father, Roland seem to be proud of it.

「Well, putting aside the 《Artifact》, it malfunctioned and before I knew it, I lost consciousness near the village. Since then, I've been indebted to Martha-san who picked me up, and this village for taking care of me」

One part was a lie but it was not completely a lie. Eric then spoke,

「That is unfortunate. There are many things that we don't know about 《Artifacts》 so such a situation is possible」

Roland then took over speaking,

「So is what you're saying that you don't know where your hometown is?」

「That's right. You probably don't know Japan do you?」

「Japan is it? It is certainly not a name of a place I have heard of before. Is that your...」

「Yes, it is my hometown」

Roland began to ponder. In the meantime, Eric wanted to listen to more.

「I'm guessing that the magic Jin-san uses to make tools is from Jin-san's town, am I right?」

「That is right」

When Jin nods in assent, Eric excitedly,

「Magnificent! By all means, please teach me how to make that pump!」

To that, Roland reproved.

「Hey hey, don't get too excited. Jin-san, I'd like to pay for the information, please also teach me how to make a 『Pump』」

Jin thought about what to do. There was no problem in teaching them, but he would like for the village to profit from this if possible.

「Let's see... how much would you pay for the information? Oh, and I don't know about the currency around here so please teach me about it.」

「I see. I guess that'd be the case. How about 100,000 torr for the information? That is the common currency in this kingdom. 1 copper coin is 1 torr, 1 silver coin is 100 torr, and 1 gold coin is 10000 torr. You can get 10 kilos of wheat for about 300 torr, that is 3 silver coins.」

Jin began to calculate. Although it may fluctuate, based on the wheat, 1 torr is probably about 10 yen. That is to say, the pay for the information is a million yen.

「I have one more question before I answer. In this country is there something called a 『Patent』, have you heard of it before?」

「『Patent』? What is that?」

From that reply, there probably wasn't.

「A patent is the first thing that comes to mind to protect the rights of a person. The patent is valid for a fixed period and the person who uses the patent must pay a 『royalty』, that is the kind of system it is」

Hearing that, Roland thinks for a little bit.

「I see, that is a good system. It is designed to protect the profit of the person who invents something new while allowing it to be widely available. Because of that, the opportunity to make the new thing will not rise」

As expected from a merchant, he understood quickly. But,

「However, unfortunately there is no such system」

「Is that so... that's is regrettable」

「Well then...」

Although Roland had a disappointed face on,

「Hmm, let's sell that information with a certain condition. However, there will only be one condition.」

「Th- that is!？」

Roland was eager to gain the information for selling the pump.

「I'd like for the pump and other things like it be in your name. If possible, please make it hard to imitate」

「Indeed, differentiate from similar products」

Roland quickly understood.

「That's right. Sooner or later counterfeits and imitations will appear on the market, it will be good if people understood the original is from Roland's place」

「Hehehe, but the true original is by you Jin-san」

「If that was said, people will know that the original is from my country」

With that kind of understanding, a contract was made. In charge of it is Eric. Jin immediately made a pump for them to see, he then handed it over as a sample.

That afternoon, Jin made a demonstration using the little remaining bronze.

During that afternoon, while Jin was working,

「Wh-what kind of method is that?!」

Eric's shout sounded.

CHAPTER 6

HARVEST OF WHEAT

「Well then, we'll be back again in two months」

「Take care」

「You'll definitely come back again won't you Eric?」

「Yeah, and I'll bring back another souvenir for you」

Two days later, Roland & Eric were leaving Kaina Village. Eric and Barbara were dejected from having to part.

Jin began thinking while absentmindedly watching the carriage fade away into the distance.

(It takes 2 days to travel to the next village by wagon, another 2 days to get to a town, and a further 3 days to get to the Cline Kingdom's capital. The speed of a wagon seems to be from about 4km to 6km per hour. Assuming I travel 8 hours a day and the capital is about 200km to 300km away, it would be quite a considerable distance. But if I go to the capital, I'll be able to obtain a map of this continent. That way I might be able to figure out the location of the laboratory)

While thinking about that, something grasped his cuff. What he saw was Hanna.

「What is it Hanna?」

Recently he has stopped using honorifics.

「Jin-oniichan... are you leaving the village?」

Tears started falling from her eyes. Small girls sure do have a sharp insight, Jin strangely admired while saying,

「Hmm, I wonder. At the very least, I won't be leaving before the end of the year」

Hearing that Hanna,

「I... I'll become Onii-chan's bride so don't leave me!」

says that. Jin,

「Ahh... thank you. Well once Hanna becomes an adult, if you still have that thought, then at that time I'll accept」

answers. Actually, this isn't the first time he's been told those kind of words.

The first time was when Jin was in his 3rd year of junior high school. He was suddenly told those words when he was taking care of a girl that just came to the orphanage. At that time she was 6 years old.

But around the time she was 9 years old, she told one of the boys from the same orphanage that she would be his future bride.

The next time was when Jin was in his 1st year of high school doing part-time. A girl 4 years his junior confessed. But he worked at his part-time job during the day and did part-time school at night and before Jin noticed it, the girl was dating another guy.

With those experiences, they went back on their confession which happened twice, well they were after all only temporary words. Jin could no longer trust in those words from a small girl.

Now let's return to the main story... While recalling about the orphanage he was picked up and raised at, Jin decided that he would repay the favour to Martha and the village for picking him up and stay in this village for one year.

It was getting close to summer, the village's wheat fields were ripe. The harvesting of the village's wheat fields was a joint effort which continued day after day. Jin also helped out, but he soon got a sore back and dropped out.

「Damn, I have no physical strength do I...」

This was because most of Jin's body was supplemented with magic power, so no matter how much training he had done, he did not gain any muscles. Conversely, if he strengthened himself with magic power he would have an unthinkable amount of strength, but it would still be a long time before Jin noticed that.

「There must be something I can help with...」

The wheelbarrow Jin made was useful with transporting the harvested wheat, but Jin thought there was still something else he could help with.

「Come to think of it, there were times I used the wheat at the orphanage... at that time how did I mill it?」

Trying to dig up his memories,

「That's right! It was a sieve!」

The flour being eaten in this village was wheat flour, but not the whole wheat flour, a wheat that was completed milled. It was not the common modern household pure white flour, but a brown powder of mixed flour and bran.

「I'll immediately start making a sieve then」

Jin excused himself from Martha and went home to quickly make a sieve. He made the frame, then the net and combined them together to complete it. There were two kinds of nets, a detailed one and a little coarse one..

「With this I'm done! But a hand sieve will be tiring to use」

Therefore, he hanged the sieve from a height, making a frame so there wasn't a need to use both hands. He recalled seeing a drain-board hung from the ceiling in the paper before.

「This looks pretty good」

The frame hanged the sieve which is shaken using your hand, and it would accumulate in the tub below. All that was left was the wheat bran to feed into it.

「Alright, it's complete!」

Right on time, Martha and Hanna returned carrying the wheat and saw the sieve.

「What is this!? You've made another peculiar thing」

「Onii-chan, what is this?」

They were surprised as expected. Jin then explained.

「Fuu-n, this can sort out the flour right?」

「That's right. It will sort out the higher quality flour, even Roland-san would evaluate it highly.」

「Will it become delicious?」

「I see. A portion for eating, a portion for selling, it is worth trying it in various ways.」

Then without delay, he milled the last year's harvest of wheat, resulting in flour, and places it in the sieve. (Because the wheat that was just harvested was not dried yet, it could not be milled)

「Funfun, this is how you do it, put it in, then shake」

「This looks interesting! I want to try it too!」

Seeing that, Hanna reached her hand out to it so Hanna did the sieving, Martha milled the wheat, and Jin took care of splitting the sieved flour.

「Waaa, it looks pretty!」

The light brownish wheat flour had turned into pretty white flour. With this amount now done, Jin was satisfied.

「It's turned out really pretty. Okay then I'll use this flour to bake some bread today」

That night.

「This is delicious, Oba-chan!」

Hanna was delighted.

「It really is delicious...」

「After all, white bread is definitely delicious」

He was raised to not be picky about what he likes and dislikes, and he was fine with eating bad food, however the breads up until now were completely different in taste to the one he was eating now.

「I need to tell everyone」

The next day the villagers were delighted to know how delicious sieved flour was, and once again, it was decided that Jin would make a sieve for every house.

「It would be great if we could make this flour into Kaina Village's specialty」

After the sieves were given out, the village chief made that proposal, and he agreed with the village chief.

「That will be good. With this we'll be able to acquire a little bit of foreign money.」

Was what Jin was pleased about.

Roland came after February and was pleasantly surprised when he saw the flour.

「This white flour, even in the capital there is very little! The pure white flour aristocrats eat are made by their servants who peel the exterior and mill it with their hands. Such a thing a commoner wouldn't even eat without a reason. And so close, there's tons of it!」

Although it was not pure white, the colour was pretty close to white, furthermore the price for it was reasonable. The merchant jumped at the chance.

And though he did not have money prepared this time, he had promised that he would purchase it at a high price on his next visit.

「Still, each and every time Jin-san sure does surprises me」

Roland muttered while eating white bread.

「I'd also like to be able to see Jin-san's home town. When you come to the capital and need a helping hand, by all means I'll gladly cooperate」

「At that time, please do so」

Although his home was Japan, he would never again return home. For now he decided to politely accept.

CHAPTER 7

STOVE

Lately Jin has been thinking about something. That is a stove. In Kaina Village... no, in this world, firewood is typically used for cooking.

However for firewood, you need to cut a tree down, clear away the branches, cut it short, dry it, and then after that you can use the wood. Cutting down a tree and carrying it is hard labour, it also takes about half a year to dry it. A tree that's not dried is hard to burn and it creates a lot of smoke. The concept of using charcoal did not exist in this world and to the general populace, firewood was a source of heat.

「A 《Magic Crystal》 as I thought... no, it's a 《Magic Stone》 I need」

There was a lot of it underneath the laboratory which Jin regretted. Well, a lot of the goods stored in the laboratory were all over the place though.

(It can't be helped, what's done is done. Hmm, from my hypothesis, the substance of magic power is a particle made up of neutrons and protons that form a nucleus. It should have a similar position to a 《Radioisotope》)

Even if it's the same element, the nucleus needs the substance of magic power to take on magic power, which is the hypothesis Jin made up. Deducing it with the knowledge and magic of the 《Magi Craft Meister》 and the knowledge of a high school level graduate. No one has ever thought of such a thing in this world.

(That is to say, it has a similar concentration to uranium, however there is no materials or equipment for it)

If it was the laboratory, Jin could make a magic element concentration device, but this was Kaina Village so it couldn't be helped.

「Onii-chan, can we go play?」

Jin was invited by Hanna.

「Ah, yeah, that's right. Where should we go?」

「It's hot so let's go swim!」

To the south of the village is the Erume River, a big river that supposedly runs to the capital. However, there are several waterfalls along the way so it wasn't used for transportation by water, was what he heard from Roland.

「Alright, let's go」

So the two changed into their swimwear and headed to the river. Well the swimwear wasn't much different from underwear though. Incidentally, Hanna didn't have a problem with only wearing the bottom so Jin didn't worry about it either.

In the river were other children that came to swim, mixed among them was the village chief's niece, Barbara. As one would expect, Barbara had wrapped cloth around her chest.

「Ah! It's Jin-niichan! Hanna too!」

Kurt let out his voice when he saw the two. Mario and Jessie also waved at the two.

「It isn't good to suddenly enter the river. You should splash a little water on your body and slowly enter.」

「Okay」

He warned Hanna and Jin slowly entered the river. The place to swim was a deep area with gentle flow. Well it's not really that deep, the width is 20 metres and the deep areas are only about 3 metre in depth.

「Kyahaaa, it feels good」

「Yeah... it really does」

Leisurely floating on the water, Jin rested his head, and then water was poured on his face.

「Pua!」

「Hehe, Jin-niichan, what are you doing lazing around? Let's play!」

The mischievous Kurt came and squirted some water.

「You sure did it!」

「You can't catch me~」

「Oh, a game of tag? I'll also play!」

「Me too! Me too!」

Before he noticed it, the children had gathered and it became a game of underwater tag. Barbara looked at the scene with a smile from a shallow area.

「Caught you Hanna-chan!」

「Caught you Jessie!」

「The only one left is... Kurt?」

「Ah, there he is! He dove underwater!」

「Alright!」

Kurt dived deeper to escape, Jin and Mario chased after him.

Kurt was caught near the bottom by Mario who was skilled at swimming. At that time, Kurt was flailing about, and the sand at the bottom rolled up. Seeing that, an idea flashed in Jin's head.

「Ahhh, that was really fun~」

The children who finished playing got out of the water. Because it was nearly time for lunch, everyone returned home.

「You guys, quickly take a hot bath at the onsen and then go back home」

「Okay~」

Worrying that they may get sick if they remained with a cold body, Jin called out to them. Well, the children of this village aren't so weak though.

「Fuu...」

While bathing in hot water, Jin verified the idea he had a while ago.

(An atom with a lot of neutrons must be heavy, so an atom with a surplus of the substance of magic power should be heavy too. If that's the case then sifting it should be possible like the gold dust underwater)

「Onii-chan, haven't you gotten out yet?」

Hearing Hanna call out, Jin snapped out of his thoughts. Because he pondered too long in the hot water, he returned to Martha's house while sweating. Hanna had a refreshed face.

「What's wrong? You look unusually hot after going for a swim」

Martha told him.

「Well... I was thinking about a little something」

Jin said in the same usual tone, bitterly smiling.

Now the afternoon, Jin came alone to the Erume River once again. As for Hanna, she was taking a nap.

「Now then... let's trying putting it into practice」

Muttering that, he entered the water. In his hand was a large bowl.

First of all he scooped the riverbed of sand with the bowl, and swung it into the water. Doing that, the light sand flew into the water while the heavy sand remained in place.

This technique of picking gold dust is called 『Panning』. Of course Jin didn't have the experience in doing this, but he has seen it being done on the television.

After doing it several times, there was a little bit of red sand left on the bowl. He checked if the water was gone. Of course using magic.

「《Analyse》... yep, a fire attribute 《Magic Stone》. It has a higher grade than I thought it would」

He did it several times, but all that he found were red 《Magic Stone》.

「Hmm, maybe there's some relation with what comes out of the hot spring. But, well, this was unexpectedly fortunate」

Making a stove requires a fire attribute 《Magic Stone》, so this is convenient.

For that day, Jin continued to collect the 《Magic Stone》 until dusk when Hanna came to find him.

The next day, Jin secluded himself in the workshop. This time he was using iron-based materials. Handling fire is dangerous so although he felt bad about it, he had Hanna go out to play alone.

「Well then, the basic form of that 《・・》」

Recalling the form of the general cassette stove, Jin transformed the iron into an iron plate. Once again, he thought magic was convenient. Being able to precisely do it to this point was because he was the 《Magi Craft Meister》, however he did not realise that.

This time he bent the resulting iron plate to make the form of the stove. The burner section used the 《Magic Stone》 for the heater process, and substituting for the cassette gas cylinder was a 《Magic Stone》.

Although the prototype is in the form of a cassette stove, he hoped the final form would be a gas range.

「Alright I'm done!」

The first thing he noticed when making it was the adjustment of the heating. The magic power supplied to the 『Magic Stone』 could be adjusted with a knob he implemented.

「I should try it out immediately」

Bringing the finished stove, Jin went to where Martha was. Just in time, Martha was beginning to prepare for lunch. She had fetched some firewood to boil the pot.

「Um, Martha-san do you have a moment?」

He asked Martha who stopped her hand holding firewood,

「What is that? You've brought another interesting thing haven't you?」

「Well yes... this is a 『stove』, it can boil and stew food without firewood」

「Ohhhh, is it a 『Magic Tool』 as I thought?」

「That's right. Could you try and use it?」

「I'll gratefully accept your offer and use it. How am I suppose to use it?」

Placing the stove on top of the kitchen table, he put the pot filled with water on the trivet.

「Using it is simple. First, you raise this lever. Then you turn this knob and when the heater becomes hot, it will boil the water. You can adjust the amount of heating by turning the knob.」

Martha then opened her eyes wide,

「What a Magic Tool! You called it a 『stove』 right? ... being able to produce such heat! Jin! This is really amazing!」

she said in great joy, and Jin was glad.

Adjusting the heat of firewood is extremely difficult. The amount and type of firewood can change it. In spite of that, Martha who could make a delicious meal was amazing, but Jin's cooking skills were at a beginner level so he couldn't understand how.

But to Martha, this magic tool, the 『stove』 is revolutionary.

After several days of testing the prototype, there were no problems, so he made stoves to go around the village. Jin taught them the method to collect the magic stones for replacing them, and all the homes in the village were very thankful for it.

CHAPTER 8

NATURAL RUBBER

「I guess a refrigerator is impossible after all...」

Jin gave up on it. To preserve the food he wanted to make a variety of refrigerators, but there was not enough materials by far. It would be nice if there was at least a water type 『Magic Stone』.

「I was able to find a fire type 『Magic Stone』 probably because there's a volcano. Which means conversely, a water type 『Magic Stone』 is impossible」

To begin with, it's seems that natural water type 『Magic Stone』 are few in number.

「I might be able to make it if I go to the capital...」

Thus, for now he gave up on making a refrigerator and worked on something else related to 『Transportation』.

Jin decided that he would sell the manufacturing method for the stove to Roland. By doing that, the fire type 『Magic Stones』 you can gather at Erume River would be this village's speciality, and it would give the village a source of income was what he thought.

Then the problem of transportation would be given to Roland to bear with his wagon. If it turns out costly, then he would have to have the fire type 『Magic Stone』 be purchased. In conclusion, improvement with something related to transport is essential.

(The capital and this place have a difference in elevation)

Based of the stories he's heard, he guessed that the elevation of Kaina Village is approximately 1000 metres. Because of that, the village in the south is able to have a calm summer.

(Returning is simple but going out would be difficult)

The cargo would pile up on the way back down, so the journey would be difficult and because of that, they only visit once every two months.

「Ahhh... I want to develop a motor or engine...」

It would be possible at the laboratory, but it would be impossible here. And because of that,

「I'll probably need to improve the wagon, huh?」

Having reached that conclusion, Jin began investigating for improvements.

「To make it comfortable for the horse to pull, bearing equipment will be essential.」

Was the extent of what he could think of right now.

「I'll want rubber for the tyre. For that I'll need to find a tree that I can harvest natural rubber from.」

When he took a part-time job at a camera shop, he heard a story about resin. A famous German cameraman showed him his camera, that he couldn't collect rubber from the rubber tree, and instead he got some resin from the tree instead.

The bark of the tree in China could turn into healthy tea.

「This village drinks tea... that tree had white sap coming out of it.」

So he decided to examine it. For that, Hanna would know the details.

「Hanna, let's go pick some tea leaves」

Jin called out to her,

「Okay!」

and an answer was immediately returned.

So they went to the forest with a small basket.

「There it is, it's this tree~」

The villager called this tree, 『Tea Tree』.

「Alright, let's select and pick the fresh leaves」

「Yeah!」

There were a lot of trees growing in a part of the forest. When he picked a leaf, a thread of something sticky was left behind. This raw material would turn into rubber.

Jin tried to remember the features of the tree, so that after taking tea leaves and going back, he could return to the forest again by himself.

「I don't want to take too much」

So as to avoid environmental destruction, he made a cut around the tree, tying a bowl to it and piercing it so the sap would leak.

「Alright, if I wait until tomorrow a good amount should gather up.」

He tried to imitate the collection of sap from rubber trees he saw on the TV.

While the sap is gathering up, he would go back to developing the bearings.

「Onii-chan, what are you going to do this time?」

Recently Hannah has been enjoying herself by watching Jin make various things with magic.

「Well look at this... 《Forming》！」

「Wow! It looks interesting!」



The lump of iron quickly transformed into a ball. There were 10 of them the size of a micron. Only the 《Magi Craft Meister》 could do it so precisely.

「《Carburising》！」

Magic to carbonise iron, it was Jin's original. As a result, the regular iron transformed into tough steel.

Similarly he made an outer ring, an inner ring, a ball cage, and assembling it together with the ball bearings would complete it. By using 《Hardening》, the durability was guaranteed.

「What... is that?」

Having finished, Hanna didn't know what it was, so with a bored face, she left to help with the preparations for dinner.

Jin wryly smiled and readied an axle of suitable thickness for the bearings to prepare a wheel. After that, he finished the day by remodelling Hanna's bicycle trailer she used to transport water, using the bearings.

The next morning, Hanna came back from drawing the water,

「Onii-chan, did you do something to my bicycle trailer?」

「It was the thing I made yesterday. I attached that to it.」

was what Jin said,

「It became so easy to move I thought could I have gotten stronger? Then I thought of Onii-chan」

was said, with a disappointed but happy face directed at Jin.

「Well then, the natural rubber...」

After breakfast, Jin went to the forest to see the amount of sap gathered up.

「Oh, a lot sure has gathered up!」

The bowl Jin had tied was nearly full, so he moved it into the bucket he prepared, and the sap continued to gather up again.

「Now then, next is vulcanising, huh?」

Natural rubber is soft, so he heated it and melted it, then mixed some percentage of sulphur to make it hard. Although he called it vulcanising,

「I've only heard of it but I've never done it before」

He used the sulphur he had mined in his spare time from the 『Mountain of Death』 which had a plentiful amount.

「Guess I'll have to go with trial and error」

So first he tried 5% of sulphur. The result? Too soft. Next he tried 10%. Still soft. 15%. It has a good feel. 20%. Hard. 30%. It's no longer rubber. This was something called Ebonite, Jin assessed.

「Now then, what should I do with this prototype rubber?」

Usually, vulcanised rubber that is melted and made into a mould can no longer be processed. To shape it before vulcanisation is the theory, but this did not apply to Jin.

「Alright, 《Forming》！」

He made the prototype rubber into a ball. Of course it's hollow. One big enough for dodge ball, one reasonable enough for hand ball, and one small enough for baseball. At the same time, he made several swim rings.

「The children would be delighted if I give it to them」

So he went in search of Hanna. Recently her shyness was completely gone and she played with the other children of the village. Jin went to the plaza, but saw no one there as it was hot.

「As I thought, it's the river」

When he went to the Erume River, there were children swimming in the river as expected. Hanna was there too. That Hanna with a sharp sight found Jin, getting out of the river and approached him,

「Onii-chan, what are those?」

was asked when she saw the swim rings and ball.

「This is a ball. This one is a swim ring.」

「What did he make?」

「What is... this?」

「Jin-nii, did you make something again?」

「Jin-san, what is it, that thing?」

Not only the children, but also Barbara who was collecting fire type 《Magic Stone》 came over.

「For this ball, you throw it like this and catch it to play with it.」

First he threw the dodge ball at Kurt. The mischievous Kurt panicked but splendidly received it.

「Nicely done. Try throwing it someone else now」

「Alright, Mario, can you catch this?」

「Eh? Wait a minute... what is this? It's really light.」

It was lighter than it looked because it was hollow. The boys immediately began tossing and playing with the ball. He then passed the handball to the remaining girls.

「This is a handball. You throw it, but do it like this with a thrust and play with it」

Finding a flat surface, Jin showed them how to play handball.

「Ah! Let me play! Let me play!」

The tomboy Jessie immediately jumped in, and although there were a few mistakes with the power for it to be sent flying, improvement was made quickly

Last is baseball... which wasn't popular and was left alone. It was time for the turn of the swim rings he carried on both arms.

「This is called a swim ring, You enter through the centre and hold it with your arms. Then you can try entering the water.」

The children who played in the shallow area and couldn't swim yet, Jim and Patty were given it, and when they tried entering the water,

「Wow~! I'm floating!」

they were very excited.

Seeing that, Barbara had an envious look. Which he then recalled to mind that last time as well, she was only in the shallow areas.

「Barbara-san... could it be that you can't swim?」

Hearing that she became bright red, so Jin thought he'd make another one afterwards.

CHAPTER 9

HANNA IS STRONG?

Now September with a lingering summer heat, Roland arrived. When Roland and Eric saw the stove,

「... I can't even be surprised anymore.」

「I'd believe it if Jin-san said he was the Head Magic Engineer of the capital.」

such mutters leaked from their mouth. Jin had them do an underwriting agreement for the manufacturing method of the stove as well as the magic stones. This way Kaina Village had a way to acquire foreign currency not just from flour.

「Is this all?」

In addition, Jin still had something more to say, and focusing his tired eyes,

「No, your horse-drawn wagon or in particular, your wagon, could I perhaps see it?」

saying that, Roland gave a puzzled look.

「My wagon? What is it this time?」

And of course he would questioned it.

「I was thinking about how to have your wagon move more quickly.」

and when Jin expressed his thoughts,

「Well if I reduced the load it would be able to move quickly, but by reducing the goods I transport, I won't make a profit.」

so Roland said. But that wasn't what Jin had meant to do.

「No, no, not that kind of thing, I meant remodeling the wheel so it could turn faster」

was what he explained. The two knew intuitively that there was something to discuss, and Jin took the two to Martha's house.

「Eh? Onii-chan and the Oji-chan from the shop, what is it?」

Martha wasn't home and Hanna was watching the house, Jin thought it was a good time,

「Yeah, I'd like to show your bicycle trailer for a bit」

he told Hanna.

「My bicycle trailer? Okay, that's fine. I'll bring it out now!」

saying that, Hanna headed to the shed and immediately returned with the bicycle trailer. Pulling it with one hand while running. Seeing that kind of thing, Roland and Eric were surprised.

「Th-this scene is somehow amazing...」

「Yeah... that little girl is strong」

The face of the two had stiffened a little while Jin began to laugh,

「Now now, pull yourself together for a bit and observe」

saying that, he passed them Hanna's bicycle trailer.

「Hn.....? What is this, this lightness!?」

The difference was immediately noticed. He explained what effects the bearings had. Also, he raised and spun the wheel, and seeing that it continued to turn for a long time,

「I see... I now understood what Jin-san meant. So did you want to equip our wagon with this?」

「Yes. How about it?」

「By all means please do so」

So he immediately moves things to the wagon and switched the wheels, axles, and bearings. He also attached a rubber tyre.

「Umm, Jin-san, what is that you attached to the wheel?」

「Oh, this is a rubber tyre」

「Rubber tyre?」

「Well, try testing it out」

So Roland and Eric got on the wagon and Jin pulled it to show them. The effects of the ball bearings were wonderful, Jin could pull it comfortably without much strength. Once again, they were amazed with the improvement of riding with rubber tyres.

「Onii-chan, let me do it」

she said, seeing that it looked fun, so he swapped with Hanna,

「I am... STRONG!!!」

saying those words, the two riding the wagon were engrossed.

「A, ahahahahaha...」

The two, Roland and Eric were completely engrossed. Well the bearings were definitely effective.

With the display of the improved ride from the bearing and rubber tyre, they were able to understand.

「Jeez, Jin-san, your remodeling is amazing. Do you really not want money for it?」

「Yes, but in exchange, I would like you to increase the frequency of your visits to this village」

Hearing that, Roland took on the face of a merchant,

「I see, so this is for an early investment」

He was able to correctly understand Jin's intent.

「Yes, well...」

「If the performance is convincing, the stove will sell, and the magic stones would need to be purchased. I understand, suddenly coming once a month would be impossible, but if I put in the effort I can come twice every three months.」

So it was decided and having fulfilled his original objective, Jin was relieved. However this time from Roland,

「By the way Jin-san, that round thing the kids are playing with, by chance is that...?」

Jin looked to where he pointed. There he saw children throwing a dodge ball.

「Yes, that's right. It's called a ball, it's made from the same material as the tyre」

「Hmm, could you also sell that?」

「Oh, yes, I don't mind」

Because of the 『Tea Tree』 in the forest, he now knew where to look for a lot of resin to collect.

That's why the rubber ball will also be sold. The manufacturing method is difficult this time so it's only the finished product, the rubber ball. For now he made 50 each of baseballs, handballs, and dodge balls.

Upon finishing the negotiations, Eric began to grow restless. Jin could somehow guess the reason,

「Going to Erume River is refreshing, let's go together」

He invited Eric. Unable to turn it down, Eric and Jin headed to the river, and upon reaching the river, a joyful look coloured his face.

That was because in Erume River, the swimsuit figure of Barbara was floating with a swim ring.

「J-Jin-san, what is that thing she's holding onto?」

「Oh, that's a swim ring, it allows people who can't swim to be able to float」

Whether she heard the conversation of the two or not, Barbara found Eric and waved her hand. Eric had a face that wanted to immediately enter the water, but he didn't have a swimsuit. So Jin,

「Eric, if you want to swim, there's a shed over there, are you going to get changed?」

saying that, Jin passed over a new swimsuit he secretly brought. He had prepared it because he thought it would become like this.

「Th- thank you very much!」

So Eric snatched it and dashed to the shed to change.

Eric and Barbara swam for the rest of the day like that. Eric did not help with arranging the goods and Barbara ignored her chores and instead they played. The two that got along well were scolded.

Summer was now ending with the day.

CHAPTER 10

TAX COLLECTOR ARRIVES

It is now October, and the wheat sowed in Autumn has begun to sprout.

「It's about time they come」

Martha muttered. Jin was able to hear it.

「Come? What is?」

「The tax collector」

「Tax collector?」

Aa, so there is tax in this world, Jin thought. And by the sound of tax collector, he imagined a greasy, fat middle-aged man. Otherwise, a slim middle-aged man who's obsessed with money.

Only once, while Jin was at the orphanage a person from the tax office came. Well, it's not like they were evading taxes so the person immediately went back after checking the premise.

「How much do they take?」

While Martha tilted her head,

「Un, I believe the amount of wheat last year was...」

From Martha's story, Jin understood it was about 5 tonnes. The consumption of this village was from about 10 to 15 tonnes per year, that's 2:1 to 3:1, so the tax may perhaps be minor.

「How do they determine the tax?」

hearing that,

「Aa, it seems to be determined by the number of households」

This happened because it would take too much time and effort to examine the tax for each crop. The conducted land survey was from the Edo Period, using the 『Teimen Method』 from after the Kyoho Reform. It would be difficult for the country to change the tax from examining and estimating the harvest, which would be fine.

However, if they aren't able to pay due to a poor harvest, then for that time, they will need the tax to be reduced.

「They come to examine what we can pay and what we can't, deciding the tax for next year」

「I see, so who transports it though?」

「It is the tax collector who comes to take it from the village. Or rather a government official has yet to come take it」

Indeed, they wouldn't come to this remote region to collect tax.

「I see」

Here, Jin decided to ask a question he has been meaning to hear about.

「By the way, I've been thinking about it for a while, but it taking 2 or 3 days, isn't there any danger along the way? Things such as beasts and thieves」

「Thieves huh? I've never heard of that kind of thing in my life. Could you even make an earning from such a remote place?」

「Well, I guess so...」

「And as for beasts, well, they do appear. However the wolves around here are small, unless it's a pack, it isn't dangerous being attacked. Also, everyone puts up a beast warding bell」

「So there's such a thing, huh?」

I should check if it is a magic tool later, Jin thought. In any case, he wanted to know if there was a 『Demon Warding』 bell, not a 『Beast Warding』 one.

Well, you could say that a 『Beast Warding』 bell is a degraded version of a 『Demon Warding』 bell.

It was now two days after the talk.

「Aa, I've finally arrived」

A single traveler had come to Kaina Village. It looked to be a women.

Her petite body wore a breastplate, and a rather short sword was attached to her waist, that appearance atop a horse would identify their social status. That's right, she was the tax collector responsible for Kaina Village.

pokupoku the horse walked, while there she asked a villager.

「Umm, I have something I'd like to ask... this is Kaina Village right?」

「Yes, it is but...」

The one to answer was Jin. He was just on his way back after collecting the natural rubber sap.

「Aa, that's good. I thought I might have come to another village by mistake」

「U-umm, excuse me, but who are you? I am called Jin in this village」

The woman on horseback Jin asked was deeply moved as if she were to shed a tear.

「Ah, pl-please excuse me. My name is Lithia, I have been chosen as the tax collector responsible for Kaina Village this year」

In Jin's mind, he experienced the sound of his image of the tax collector collapsing, keeping in his thoughts,

「Ah, I am delighted to make your acquaintance. This year did you say? Then you must be unfamiliar with the area. Shall I guide you to the village chief's house?」

「Th-that would be helpful. Please do!」

She asked Jin with all her power. With a laugh he stood ahead, guiding her to the village chief's home. Along the way, Lithia asked.

「U-umm, for wheat, how was the harvest this year?」

「Ah, for that you'll have to ask the village chief who'll know more about it.」

「Right... that's true.」

Once again, Jin examined the woman on horseback. She had a petite body with a baby face. Her hair was a colourful light brown, her eyes were also the same colour. No matter how you look at it, she had yet to turn into an adult.

「Umm, Lithia-san, excuse me but what is your age?」

「Eh? Umm, I'm 15 years old! I-Is it funny?」

Jin wryly smiled,

「What is funny? I don't know what you're asking, it's just that it is an unusual sight.」

「Ah, ha, hai~! This is my first job for serving the kingdom.」

「Oh, your first job serving the kingdom. You must be very nervous. Though you should try and relax a bit.」

「Ye-Yes, thank you very much...」

she stuttered.

Jin remembered a child from the orphanage preparing for a high school exam that was similarly nervous.

「M-my house is a house of new nobles, I'm not used to things like this」

「New nobility? Is it?」

Jin unintentionally repeated the unfamiliar word to remember it.

「Do you know about it? For the future, the King got rid of the defective nobility, and the prosperous commoners, or soldiers who had done a meritorious service were given the vacant positions of 『Baronet』 and 『Ritter』」

「It's the first time I've heard of this」

「I guess that's right, this was a story that was spread within the castle」

It was a story people didn't know and some chatterbox just talked about it he thought, well even if it were just a rumor Jin would keep quiet and listen. Thanks to that, Lithia's nervousness and the strain in her speech was gone.

「My father, he made a meritorious service at the conflict with bordering southern countries and was promoted to 『Ritter』. His daughter that is me, was also raised to 『Ritter』 and because of that I was given this job」

「Haa... you must have a lot of troubles」

Having authority means various troubles, Jin recognised this once again.

「Ah, this is the village chief's house」

Talking while going through the small village, they arrived at the village chief's home.

「Ah, thanking you for helping me out, Jin-san」

「It's nothing much, with this I'm done」

he told her, and returned back to Martha's home carrying the bucket of natural rubber.

「I'm back」

「Welcome baaack, Jin-oniichan. Did you collect more rubber?」

Hanna welcomed him home. Jin looked forward to making a variety of things with the rubber. By the way, he inserted rubber into his pants making them more comfortable to wear.

「Oya, welcome home, Jin」

Martha also welcomed him home. To that Martha, Jin,

「I just met the tax collector, and guided them to the village chief's house」

saying that, Martha tilted her head,

「Eh? That person should know this village well though」

she said. He thought she'd say that so Jin,

「That is, a new person has taken over this year. The person this time is a 15 year old girl. A new noble she told me」

「Oya, I see now. I guess it isn't impossible then」

tsun~ looking to see what pulled on the hem of his jacket, he saw Hanna with a puffed out face,

「Was that person beautiful?」

「Eh?」

「Was she beautiful, the person you guided?」

This had Jin at a loss for an answer but,

「Th-that's not it. Sure she was pretty but.....!!」

Hanna pinched him.

「If there's a person in trouble, you can't ignore it can you? That's how it is」

「That's right, if Hanna is in trouble I'll lend you a hand too」

Martha then gave him some timely help, to coax it over,

「Both me and Martha are here for you if you're in need of help」

with that, Hanna was just barely convinced and released him from her hands.

CHAPTER 11

LITHIA FAHLHEIT

Lithia Fahlheit is the eldest daughter of the Fahlheit House. Her father, Nicholas Fahlheit has worked as a soldier of Cline Kingdom for many years. A few years ago, when there was conflict with the bordering Seruroa Kingdom, he solved it without casualty and with such meritorious service, he was bestowed with the title of 《Ritter》.

Originally, the prestigious title of 《Ritter》 was meant for a single generation, however the Cline Kingdom had an insufficient number of nobles, and so it was decided as a special case that the same title would be given to their children.

「Haa, being a noble is really tiring...」

A sigh escaped Lithia's mouth. In any case, the perception of a commoner would have already taken root to those given the education of a noble past the age of 10.

And then the village chief appeared, opening the door,

「Well well, what do we have here? You are the new tax collector right? I am the village chief, Gibbeku. I look forward to working with you from now on」

The greetings were done. Lithia dismounted the horse and answered.

「I am Lithia Fahlheit, I am responsible for the Kaina Village area this year. I look forward to working with you too」

「Come on in, please make yourself at home」

The village chief prompted Lithia. Tying the horse to the stable, she entered the village chief's home.

She was guided to the table and sat down, his niece Barbara brought over tea. Being thirsty, Lithia drank it in one go. Barbara immediately placed down a second cup. This time Lithia drank it a little bit at a time.

Having then taken a breather,

「W-Well then village chief, how has the harvest been this year?」

she began her work. The village chief is a serious person, she thought while,

「That's right... it's been about average I think?」

「Then you'll be able pay the tax decided last year, right?」

「Yes, that is alright」

It's been about the payment of tax until this year.

「Well then, can you show me the village situation and field now?」

「Eh? Right now?」

Hearing that, Lithia knitted her eyebrows,

「I-Is there anything inconvenient with thet?」

She tried to show her utmost dignity, but after stuttering, it was in vain.

「No, I thought Fahlheit-sama might have been tired. Up till now, those that came did not do anything on the day they arrived and instead did their inspection the next day.」

「Is that so? However, I am me. Please guide me around」

「I understand」

Thus, the village chief guided her around the village and fields.

「This here is the wheat field. They sprout in Autumn」

「It seems to be going well」

And then the other crop fields.

「The vegetables have already been harvested」

Finally the storehouse.

「Fun-fun, if there's this much wheat, you'll be able to last the winter even if you pay the tax」

「Ee, I think we will be alright」

「I'm relieved. Can I transport it tomorrow?」

「T-Tomorrow is it? That can be done, but Fahlheit-sama, aren't you tired?」

The village chief somehow noticed that Lithia was fatigued, but,

「I am fine. Because this is my duty」

She said and gave a forced smile, then a ball rolled towards her feet.

「Ara? This is?」

Lithia picked up the ball,

「Aah! Onee-chan, thank you~! That is my ball!」

saying that Kurt ran up to her,

「Okay, here you go」

Saying that she handed over the ball, but her line of sight was not directed to Kurt, but rather glued to the ball.

「Fahlheit-sama?」

Wondering what it is, Lithia asked the village chief,

「... village chief, what is that round thing that child just then was playing with?」

「Aa, that is a ball」

「Ball?」

「Ee, it is a thing to play with which Jin made」

「Jin would be... that person from before?」

「Ee, it was the person who had guided Fahlheit-sama here」

「That person made this ball?」

「Yes, that person was originally not from this village, he lost his way and came here in Spring. It seems he's a 《Magic Craftsman》 from a far away country and has served this village well in various ways」

「He is? A 《Magic Craftsman》?」

「Yes」

「Is that so...?」

Lithia had become a little interested in Jin.

「The merchant Roland should be handling that item but...」

「Roland is it? I think I've heard of him. Recently there's been some big talk about the merchant of that name from the Raglan Firm.」

「It is likely that person」

「Is that so? Then I'll verify it after returning to the capital」

with the matter of the ball settled, the two left the field and went back to the village.

「Village chief, that thing there is a pump right?」

Along the way, Lithia noticed the water well pump.

「Ee, that's right. That is also something Jin made.」

「!!」

Lithia was surprised once again. Right now, not only in the capital, but in the surrounding villages as well, the pump was growing popular at a phenomenal rate. This was the driving force behind the rapid growth of the Raglan Firm, but for it to have come from this... furthermore, to say it was Jin, a 《Magic Craftsman》 from a foreign country who made it. Her interest in Jin was growing more and more.

「Well, with the work out of the way for today, please relax」

Saying that, the village chief had taken the Lithia to the hot spring. His niece, Barbara was already waiting there.

「Village chief, what is this place?」

「It is a hot spring」

「Hot spring?」

「Well, try entering. Barbara, I leave the rest to you」

「Yes, oji-san」

The village chief entrusted the other party to Barbara and returned back to his house.

「Now then, Fahlheit-sama, please enter」

Saying that she invited her into the dressing room, prompting her to take off her clothes,

「W-Why are you taking off your clothes!?」

Lithia looking at it like it was incomprehensible was a natural reaction. Barbara laughed,

「I'm sorry for not clearly explaining it. This is referred to as a hot spring, it's a place where warm water wells up. And because of that, anyone in the village can come and soak in the hot water, recovering from fatigue」

「Is it different from a normal bath?」

「Ee, this uses hot water that wells up from underground. According to Jin, a lot of heat has gathered under the Mountain of Death, and the underground water that comes into contact with it heats up into hot water, was what he told me, but honestly I don't really understand it well.」

「So this is also Jin-san's?」

「Ee, he is the benefactor of this village」

After the talk, they soaked in the hot water.

「Aa, this feels really good」

With the tension finally gone, Lithia and Barbara both stretched within the hot spring.

「Right?」

The tax collector was now bathing, that is, it was quiet because the villagers were shut out with the exception of Barbara. The two sprawled themselves in the hot spring, and placed their heads on the edge of the hot spring. For a moment the presence of an old man appeared.



「...」

「Fahlheit-sama?」

Lithia stared enviously at the two bulges attached to the chest of Barbara stretching next to her, but then pulled herself together and now had something else on her mind,

「Where in the world did Jin-san come from?」

she tried to ask,

「Saa... I was told he was dragged by an 《Artifact》 that malfunctioned and thrown here. If I remember, his home country was called Japan. Do you know of it?」

「Japan, no, never heard of it. Although, I'm not familiar with the geography of this continent」

Lithia was a new noble and being a tax collector was her first job which she told Barbara. 16 years old and 15 years old, the two were only different by 1 year, and they became good friends through their naked socialising.

CHAPTER 12

TRANSPORTATION

The next morning, the men of the village had gathered in front of the village chief's house. This was to transport the wheat for the village tax.

「Well then, I'm counting on you」

When the village chief said that, the men began to tie them into a bundle,

「Ou, leave it to me! This time is easier because we only need to go once」

Right, the plan was to use the bicycle trailers Jin made so that they would only have to transport it once. Because it had been transported on the back of the person and horse up till now, they had to make several round trips to Kaina Village as well as to other villages, and that labour was hard. This time 12 bicycle trailers were to be used, with approximately 5 tonnes of wheat transported at once. Furthermore, because there is a gentle slope from Kaina Village, transportation should be extremely comfortable, and returning up the slope should also be comfortable with it being empty.

「Did you bring food and water with you?」

「Ou!」

「Did you leave anything behind?」

「Dear, be careful」

「Tou-chan, take care」

「Ou!」

The wives and children waved their hands, seeing them off for their departure.

「Yosh... tax collector-sama, let us depart」

Rock called out to Lithia, then Lithia,

「Then we're departing」

The party began to move pulling the bicycle trailers, *gorogoro*.

「Jin-oniichan, take care!」

Jin had also joined the party. He wanted to use this opportunity to take a look outside of Kaina Village.

Lithia was leading on the horse. Sometimes turning back, checking if they were following her. Behind Lithia was Rock, and then after that was Jin. Because the road is narrow, they advanced in a line.

After crossing the Erumi River and then a small mountain pass, the rest of the way was a gentle slope.

「Descending will be comfortable～」

was Jin's real intention. He had equipped the ball bearings to all the bicycle trailers, so of course he was tired.

As for Lithia... that she wanted to talk to Jin about what was in the transportation, she kept to herself.

3 hours after advancing forward, they took a break at a place where water welled up.

「Aah, I'm so tired」

「Hahaha, you sure are weak Jin」

「I'm not like Rock-san and the others」

Rock's height is beyond 180cm, his weight is also 80kg. Jin's height is 160cm, and his weight is 52kg. They were obviously physically different.

「Well I guess so, but Jin, you can do things we can't do. Me and the others are envious of that」

「... do you have a moment?」

Lithia entered into Jin and the other's conversation.

「What is the matter tax collector-sama?」

Rock asked,

「N-Nothing, just while taking a break, please don't forget our work」

said Lithia. Then she continued,

「Jin-san, was it? I've heard that you've come from far away, is that true?」

「Ee, it is true」

「Is that so... This 『Bicycle Trailer』 you also made it right?」

「That's right」

「Tax collector-sama, this Jin here is amazing! He's made one thing after another that has made our lives a hella lot more comfortable. This punk has made me really happy」

When Rock said that, the other men resting around also unanimously,

「That's right! After soaking in that hot spring, mine and my wife's skin has become smooth」

「Your wife, only her skin is pretty, only her skin」

「Huh? What do you mean by that? You even repeated it twice!」

the men were lively. But Lithia was only interested in Jin,

「Uhh... Jin-san is a 『Magic Craftsman』 right?」

「Ee, well, something like that」

「A-Ano, so after this, are you going to keep living in Kaina Village?」

「...」

For that question, Jin did not answer right away. But,

「Well, for such a talented guy, he can't stay shut up in the village forever can he?」

Rock said.

「Also, I'm sure Jin wants to go back to his hometown」

And when Lithia heard that,

「A-Ano, Jin-san's hometown is the country of 『Japan』 right?」

「So you knew... aa, you must have heard from Barbara」

「E-Ee. I heard it from Barbara at the hot spring. That hot spring is really great! My skin is now smooth from it!」

「Haha, that's good... so, tax collector-sama, have you heard of this 『Japan』 before?
」

「... Lithia」

「Eh?」

「Didn't I tell you my name yesterday? I am Lithia」

「But, right now you're on duty...」

「That doesn't matter! Everyone too, don't call me tax collector, please call me Lithia!
」

Because the person wanted it herself, it was decided that everyone would call her Lithia-san.

「So Lithia-san, do you know about Japan?」

「No, sorry but I do not know about it」

「Is that so...」

Well, it is from a different world, it would be strange to know of it, so Jin wasn't disappointed much. But, Lithia thinking she saw Jin with a forced expression,

「Ano~, Jin-san, although I don't know of it, there may be someone in the capital that does! Once I return, I'll ask an acquaintance to check, so please don't give up hope」

she braced herself and said. Jin,

「Aa, t-thank you very much」

was all he could answer.

And once again the party began to walk.

Crossing a small mountain pass, then descending a long way down, the day grew dark and they arrived at an encampment. There was a simple lodging cabin there, any person travelling from another village or Kaina Village could use it.

「Yareyare, we were able to somehow make it before it became dark」

Rock breathed a sigh of relief. It would be really dangerous if it became dark. With the short Autumn days, there was worth in having left early in the morning.

Dinner was hurriedly prepared. They had brought along a stove and pot with the bicycle trailer and wheat. Some porridge, roasted dried meat, and boiled water was made. Each share was prepared quickly.

Lithia seeing the stove,

「No way, even this stove...」

「Aa, Jin took the trouble to make it」

hearing that,

「Haa, as I thought. No matter what comes out, I won't even be surprised anymore」

she breathed out a sigh.

After having finished eating, a blanket was handed out to make a bed. The order of the night watch shift was then decided.

「We'll need two people to stay awake. First...」

「I'll do it」

Lithia said.

「Eh? But... Lithia-san we need you to...」

Rock tried to say but Lithia shook her head,

「No, while I was riding my horse everyone was pulling their cart, so this much is fine」

「Is that so? Hn, then, let's see... how about you, Jin?」

「OK」

「OK?」

「Ah, no, I understand」

「Hn, I'm counting on you. After 2 hours will be Jonas and Linus, after that is Bill and Jeff. Then it's Dave and Howard, Rick and Tom, and last is me and Yang, is that fine?」

「Understood! Hn, then hurry up and get to sleep」

saying that, Jin and Lithia were left behind, and everyone went to sleep wrapped in their blanket. Jin and Lithia rolled their body in their blanket, sitting on the bench at the entrance of the cabin.

The sky was now pitch black, and the moon was rising from the hill to the east. The moon in this world is smaller than Earth's moon. So he didn't expect much moonlight.

However, because time is measured by the movement of the moon, it was an important celestial body for that reason.

Jin and Lithia sat down in silence for a while, soon Lithia began to slowly talk.

「You've heard the story about my house being new nobility」

「E-Ee」

「That's why, I was brought up as a commoner till the age of 10. But then my father was promoted to 《Ritter》 and my life suddenly changed, honestly, I still can't believe it」

「...」

Jin could only stay silent and listen.

「But, the current Prime Minister is a splendid person, he rules for the sake of the commoners. As you already know, I also, if possible, if it were for the commoners, for the sake of the citizens I thought, I would become a 《Ritter》」

Lithia continued to talk.

「But, what is for the sake of the citizens? If it's to be helpful to people, then Jin-san is even more amazing. A pump, hot spring, bicycle trailer, and a stove. This is the kind of work that I believe to be for the sake of people」

「...」

「Jin-san, I... am I fine the way I am right now...?」

CHAPTER 13

ATTACK

To Lithia's sudden question, of course Jin was speechless. But then he remembered, what the orphanage director had said before,

「People are beings that cannot live on their own. Therefore everyone borrows someone else's power to live」

「Ee, that's true...」

Lithia meekly nodded to those words.

「People have things they are and aren't suited for. Therefore there'll be things you can and can't do」

「Ee, I know...」

「So, isn't it fine to live for the things you can do?」

When Jin said those words, Lithia hanged her head down,

「... the things I can do」

she murmured. Jin,

「I'm not a noble, and I have no interests in government. But, isn't Lithia-san different?」

「Eh?」

「A person that stands above others and does not question what they do is unpleasant, and is what someone like me thinks.」

Lithia fell silent from that and seemed to be thinking about what was said. Jin said nothing more and gazed at the stars and moon.

After checking 2 hours had roughly passed by the movement of the moon, the two went inside the cabin to switch shifts. The men had a large room while Lithia was in a separate room.

In the large room, Jin woke up the sleeping and snoring Jonas and Linus

「Hn? ...aa, it's time to switch?」

「Yes, please do so」

「Hn... I got it」

Having switched, Jin lied down. Being worn out from the day, he easily fell asleep.

On the other hand, Lithia couldn't fall asleep. She was thinking about what Jin had said.

「Something I can do... huh? I need to find that something, and for now it'd probably be my current task...」

◊ – ◊ – ◊

The next morning it was unusually cloudy. Dim inside, they finished their breakfast and quickly departed. Coming out the forest, they crossed a bridge over a creek and arrived at a prairie.

「At this rate it looks like we'll make it to a village before it becomes night」

「That will be good」

The bicycle trailers advanced, *gotogoto*. According to schedule, lunch was finished and there was about 15km left. It will take around 4 hours. The surroundings had become rocky.

「The village will be in sight after exiting this rocky area」

Saying that, Rock encouraged the party.

「There's only a little left to go, hang in there!」

At that moment.

「Uwaaah!」

Yang at the rear of the line screamed.

「What's wrong!？」

「U-Uwaah, what is that thing!」

Turning around, something with a strange appearance approached them from behind.

「That's a... golem?」

Lithia murmured.

「Golem? That thing is?」

It's height was 2 metres and its entire body was made of iron armour in a human form. It looked really solid.

「Uwah, there's one here too!」

it was Rock's voice. The identical golem moved forward and approached.

「Is it aiming for the wheat? Shit, damn you, this is unreasonable!」

The wheat was important, but there was no way to beat an armoured golem, and Rock cried out in sorrow.

「I won't let you!」

「Lithia, it's impossible!」

Rithia only had a sword and pulling out her short sword, she dismounted the frightened horse, rushing forward towards the golem.

「It's alright, I've learnt swordsmanship even if it doesn't look that way! Taaa!」

Lithia lowered her stance and slashed at golem, aiming for its leg. But,

「No way...」

The short sword did not cut the leg, and had instead been bent.

「That's why I said you couldn't! Stand back!」

Jin shouted and rushed towards her but,

「I don't want to! I'm a 《Ritter》 everyone looks up to! As a 《Ritter》 I'll protect everyone!」

「Watch out!」

「Eh?」

Aiming at Lithia, the golem's fist swung down.

Jin is a 《Magi Craft Meister》. In fact, a 《Magi Craft Meister》 cannot use attack magic.

For recovery type magic, the extent to which he could heal were cuts and grazes at best. Because of that, his aptitude leans closer to production type magic. Furthermore, as a bonus he could not exert an effect on something without touching it.

However, it does not mean 「cannot use attack magic」 = 「cannot attack」. A chainsaw is a tool to cut a tree, however it didn't need to be used to cut a tree.

Well, it was that kind of thing. Jin took the pouch of water hanging from his from waist,

「Shit! Make it in time! 《Water Jet》！」



「Kya!」

Thud, a dull impact hit Lithia's head. It was useless she thought and she resigned herself to her fate.

But, the sound of metal and the golem's arm tumbled before her,

「Ouuch...?」

Fearfully opening her eyes, there she saw the golem's lower body. The upper-body had fallen to the other side. The arm also seemed to be cut up, with the right arm up to the elbow gone.

The right arm was lying in front of him, and he understood that the dull impact was it colliding with her.

「T-That's right, there was another one!」

Remembering the golem attacking in the rear, he went to take care of it.

And with that, Jin used 《Water Jet》 to cut up the golem there.

「No way...」

Such a magic she had never seen before. Although it was a magic that used water, it wasn't a magic from the water type attack magic, with water that sweeps away 《Water Stream》 and the water that is thrown 《Water Ball》. Even so, they were magic that couldn't be used without abundant water nearby.

「Lithia-san, are you alright?」

After confirming that another golem wouldn't appear, Jin rushed over to her.

「Y-Yes. I just have a little bump on my head」

He gently caressed her head that collided with the golem's arm.

「Aa, sorry... I was a little too slow.」

「Jin-san, what in the world was that magic?」

「Hn? Do you mean 《Water Jet》? That was just a 《Craft Magic》 to process stone and iron, what about it?」

「Eeehh? Even though it has such terrifying attack power?」

Glancing backwards, to the surprised Lithia,

「Let's leave this talk for later. Lithia-san, can you use recovery magic?」

Yang who was at the rear had been hit by the Golem, and his arm was fractured.

「Ah, yes I can... 『Heal that person with light, there. 《Cure》!』」

Lithia rushed over to Yang, holding her palm over his fractured arm and used magic. Then, a pale light illuminated the affected area, and the swelling of the arm could be seen quickly fading away.

「Ooohh! Amazing!」

The men were impressed upon seeing it.

「Thank you very much, Lithia-sama」

Yang, and also Rock thanked her.

「It's nothing, because this is my duty」

Saying that, Lithia wryly smiled, and treated the bump on her head right after.

CHAPTER 14

THE GOLEM GONE

「This is a golem, huh...」

「Why were there golems in a place like this?」

Jin examined the golem that he brought down himself. Feeling that the threat of golems was gone, the village men dropped down to the ground and took a break. As for Lithia and Jin, they examined a golem together nearby.

「Someone may have sent them here I think」

Lithia made a conjecture.

「For what reason?」

「Saa... that is...」

Originally golems have autonomy to the extent that they can follow simple commands. Because of that, the manipulator didn't have to be nearby, so locating the culprit that sent it would be difficult

「Well, figuring out the culprit would be impossible」

「What is it?」

「If these are still usable, then I'll use them」

At this time, Jin investigated the structure of the golem.

「Although, this sure was built roughly」

He cut it into two with a single stroke. And when Lithia heard that,

「Eh? Eeehh!? A golem is an advanced magic doll isn't it?」

「Even if you say that, the body is just stone and the armour is just iron. The core seems like a small 《Magic Crystal》, and because there's no 《Ether Converter》 it uses a 《Mana Tank》 instead. Throwing away this golem would be unthinkable」

「Eeeeeeeeeehhhhhhhh!？」

Lithia was a quasi-noble who attended a decent school, so she had a considerably large amount of knowledge in this world, but everything Jin was saying was much further ahead than what she knew.

「I wonder if it's still in a good enough condition to be used. For now I'll try combining the parts」

While murmuring that, he tried lining up the bodies of the two golems... giving up because they were too heavy, and instead Jin went around collecting the necessary parts. At that time, the men gave what Jin was doing a look of interest.

「Although this 《Magic Crystal》 is slightly big it can be used for the core, and this 《Mana Drive》 I can use」

「Somehow, it seems like he's doing something complex. Oi Jin, how long will it take? We should be departing soon」

To the Jin who looked like he would be forever happy if we was left alone like that, Rock called out.

「J-Just a little longer」

While saying that, Jin's hands did not stop moving.

「I should connect the arms this way. 《Fusion》！」

The golem returned to its original form.

「And 《Master Slave》 ! Awaken, golem!」

The golem rose up in response to the voice.

「U-Uoooo!？」

Rock who was surprised took a step back. Lithia involuntarily grasped her bent sword. Seeing that, Jin smiled,

「It's okay. Because this fellow only listens to what I say」

The golem obeys the owner of the magic power loaded in the core.

「However, Jin...」

Rock and the others were still anxious with that said,

「I said it's safe. Look」

With those words, Jin showed them by striking the golem's back, *bashibashi*.

「It really is safe...」

「 You sure worry a lot. Golem, 『I name you, 「Gon」 』 」

It was a name completely lacking in naming sense. But Jin himself did not in the least bit mind it,

「『Gon』, pull this bicycle trailer」

When ordered to do so, the golem gave a nodding gesture, walking over to the bicycle trailer and pulled it.

「Come on let's go」

Upon Jin saying so, Jin advanced forward and took the lead. The men that were taken aback followed after him. Lithia mounted her horse and hurried after Jin.

They arrived at Toka Village after about two hours. They were able to make it before sunset.

「O-Owawawaaa?」

「What the, what is that?」

And of course, when they saw the Golem Gon, the villagers were horrified. Because it was dim, it was even more ominous.

「Unu, the village is being attacked!」

The soldiers stationed at Toka Village appeared with their swords. The one to stop them was Lithia.

「Please wait. This golem is an ally」

As an apprentice knight, it was one rank higher than a soldier. The surprised soldier stopped,

「Ah, ha... is that so? ... yes, I understand」

They obediently listened. Since Gon didn't act violently, the villagers soon grew accustomed with its appearance.

「Please carry the wheat over here」

They carried the wheat to the Toka Village storehouse. Gon played an active role for it.

「Ohhh, this is amazing」

The golem had the power to carry three times that of a person, and Jin and the other carried the wheat to the storehouse as one person(?).

「Good work Gon. Take a rest and recover your magic power. If someone tries to steal the wheat, remove them」

Upon Jin's instructions, Gon stood upright in front of the storehouse and stopped moving.

「With this we don't need a lookout」

Jin laughed while saying that, the people of Toka Village stared at him with an indescribable face,

「What with that guy?」

「Was there such a guy from Kaina Village?」

such whispers and murmurs were said. On the other hand, the men from Kaina Village,

「Wow, Jin, ya really are such a great guy!」

「That golem, it listens to anything you say right?」

「This looks like it'll come in handy if we take it back to the village!」

In addition, the soldiers spoke to Lithia,

「A-ano, tax collector-sama, what in the world is that golem...」

「Who is that young man?」

were the three different kinds of responses given.

That day, it was decided that Lithia would stay in the Kingdom's quarters, while Jin and the others stayed in an inn at Toka Village.

After dinner, while Jin was walking and taking a look around Toka Village, he noticed Lithia and called out to her.

「Lithia-san」

「Ah, Jin-san」

「Are you still dressed like that?」

Lithia was wearing a breastplate with a sword in her hand.

「Ee, because I'm still on duty」

「I see, it must be difficult. So, what are you doing here?」

Jin had asked while looking at the sword she held,

「My sword had been bent so I went to the blacksmith, but I was told it couldn't be repaired」

「Really? Could you show it to me?」

Lithia obediently handed over the bent sword to Jin. Jin then gazed at sword,

「《Analyse》 ... ah, this is dull. Because it's iron and not steel」

「Eh? But I bought it from a weapon shop that said it was a reasonably good sword」

「Weren't you deceived? As a woman you probably didn't know about the quality, and thought a sword that was decorated would be good and bought it.」

「Such a thing...」

Lithia was crestfallen and drooped her head. Seeing that appearance, Jin held the sword,

「It can't be helped. 《Forming》 ! 《Carburising》 ! 《Heat Treat》 ! 《Hardening》 !」

Repairing it, the bent sword was straightened, carburised into steel, and it was hardened.

「Here, is this fine?」

「Eh, eh, eh?」

What Jin had done, Lithia couldn't keep up and understand.

「I repaired your sword. I don't think it will break so easily now, so please take care of it」

「Ah, thank you very much... so a 《Magic Craftsman》 can do this...」

When Lithia gladly received the sword,

「Jin-san, what can I do to thank you?」

But, Jin,

「I do not need anything as thanks」

「I cannot accept that. I must compensate you on the work you have done. I know, would you like to be a 《Magic Craftsman》 exclusive to the kingdom? I will provide a recommendation」

However Jin,

「I will have to decline」

「Why?」

To Jin's immediate response, Lithia gave a puzzled look.

「I do not want to serve under someone. I want to live freely, and I want to return home.」

In this case, 『home』 was the laboratory.

「Is that so... but it's such a waste」

「I'm fine with it. So, for a while could you not report about me?」

「Eh? What do you mean by that?」

「You'll probably report about that golem attacking us right?」

「Ee, because that is my job」

「At that time, I want you to stay silent about me. And that it was Lithia-san that somehow repelled it」

「But, then...」

Jin then bowed his head,

「Please. Just like now, I want to quietly live in Kaina Village」

Lithia gave up after seeing Jin like that,

「I understand. However, if you happen to come to the capital, please come and visit my family's house」

CHAPTER 15

THE GOLEM GEN

On the way back from Toka Village, the golem Gon could pull the bicycle trailers so it was made to pull them, and everyone else could just walk,

「Jeez, Gon sure is a great thing. You sure did surprise me Jin」

Everyone, including Rock had such thoughts.

Digressing a little, on the way back, Jin had placed the other broken (by Jin) golem on the bicycle trailer to bring back, needless to say.

Today, Jin had brought Gon to the Mountain of Death to look around the mountain pass. He was here to look for a 《Magi Crystal》 even if it's small. Of course, it was the material he needed to repair the other golem.

「There should be some around here」

「Jin-oniichan, there should be some pretty gems behind the mountain over there」

Hanna said while on Gon's shoulder. At first, Hanna was afraid of the golem, but she grew accustomed to it after seeing that Gon properly listened to Jin, and now she rode on its shoulder while it moved.

「Is that so? Okay, let's go and see it」

According to Hanna's remark, he descended down to the valley behind the Mountain of Death. Of course the volcanic gas did not emerge in this place.

After descending down towards the valley, the amount of coloured stones had definitely increased. The quality of the stones was like granite. This kind of place yielded various minerals. But because it was dangerous, he didn't descend too far.

「Okay, let's try looking around here. 《Grand Search》！」

Using search magic to look around, he luckily found a small amount of 《Magic Crystals》.

「Gon, try digging over here a little」

Lowering Hanna off its shoulder, the golem Gon began digging up the ground. Speaking of its force, *zugagaga*, would be the onomatopoeia that suited it to a great extent, and a 5 metre in diameter hole was made in a few minutes.

「Wa, amazing」

Hanna stared at it in amazement. And then noticed something glittering,

「Onii-chan, something glittered!」

「Okay, Gon, stop for a moment... hmm? ... Aa, isn't this muscovite?」

There laid a huge crystal of muscovite. Its size was larger than 1 meter.

「Well this sure is something... aa, I know! ...Gon, dig out that thing other there」

Gon promptly dug out the muscovite. It was a considerably transparent and beautiful crystal.

「This is good, once it turns Winter with this...」

Jin mumbled when he saw the muscovite. Hanna,

「Onii-chan, will this be useful?」

「Aa, it will definitely be useful... alright, this is all of it. Gon, try digging for more」

After digging out all the muscovite there, Gon resumed digging the hole. Then, with less than 50 centimetres dug, there was a yellow crystal mixed with stone.

「Oh? Alright! An earth type 《Magic Crystals》！」

「It's pretty isn't it, Onii-chan」

Hanna said when she saw the magic crystal. The transparency of the magic crystal was high, enough to be like a gem. This was a good indication of its quality.

After digging out 5 of the magic crystals, Jin had Gon stop and prepared to go back.

「Hanna, we'll be walking back, will you be okay?」

「Un! I'm really fit!」

Though he could return with the magic crystals in his pocket, the muscovite was too large to carry, so Gon did not have room for Hanna to ride on.

「.....」

「Onii-chan, faster~!」

「...haa...fuu」

But after all, Jin lacked the physical strength Hanna had.

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「What is that? You've brought another unusual thing again」

Returning home with the muscovite, Martha let out her thoughts on it.

「This is 『Muscovite』」

The name muscovite seems to have been derived from 『Muscovy-Glass』. He recalled it was written in a book about minerals he read that it could be used instead of glass, and that it was difficult to crack. Instead, the amount of transparency for it was lower than glass.

「Put it in the window frame this way, to!」

Fitting the muscovite into the window frame made of wood, he then fitted the window.

「How is it?」

For now, he decided to only fit the kitchen window to hear Martha's impression of it.

「Hee, I can see outside, and the wind doesn't enter. This looks pretty nice! It will be really helpful when Winter comes around!」

with that said, Jin fitted muscovite into all the windows in the house the next day. Of course they could open and close.

「It's bright and doesn't let the warmth escape. It really helps with saving up firewood. Thank you, Jin」

「You're welcome」

「It's waaarm~」

When the sunlight enters, the room warms up. With that comfortable feeling, Hanna took a nap in her own bed.

「Now then... next is this」

The muscovite was nearly all gone, fitting all the windows in the village with muscovite wouldn't be for a while longer. So Jin decided to restore the other golem first.

「So I have three yellow 《Magic Crystals》 I can use」

One 《Ether Converter》, one 《Mana Drive》, and one 《Control Core》. He wrote a so-called program using 《Magic Language》 dedicated for each of them.

At this point it was far from ordinary, the specifications had already exceeded the highest grade of golems, however it was similar to the 《Automata》 he had repaired before, and Jin was not conscious and did not show prudence to this.

「Alright, it's done. I can't forget the condition to give intelligence to the 《Control Core》. Now then, Gon, come here」

Because Gon did not have an 《Ether Converter》, he used one of the remaining two 《Magic Crystals》 for it. The last one was used for the 《Control Core》. He took out the original 《Control Core》 of poor quality and thought to use it for something else. With the tune-up, he gave the two dolls the same abilities. The two golems had an outrageous body.

「Now then, shall I start on it at once? 《Transfer Info》! ...this time I won't do a partial transfer」

「Onii-chaaan, whaat are you doing?」

There, Hanna who had woken up from her nap came over.

「Hmm? There are two Gons?」

Seeing the golems lying side by side, Hanna said that.

「Hanna, this here is Gon, however this one over here is not Gon」

「Fuun?」

So Jin decided to change the colour of the golem's exterior. The two dolls wore light armour for combat, so Gon was made bluish. Made in the image of a bronze knight (though the armour is iron). The other one was coloured silver.

「Waa, pretty」

「Hanna, this blue one here is Gon. Gon, activate」

Gon rose up and spoke words of obedience towards Jin.

「Yes, Master」

「Wah, Gon spoke!」

Hannah was surprised. But,

「Gon, this child is Hanna. This child's instructions take priority after me」

「Acknowledged」

「Alright... Hanna, Gon will now listen to what you tell it」

「Really? That's amazing!」

Hanna was honestly delighted. Jin then continued to activate another one.

「I name you, Gen... you are Gen」

「Yes, Master」

Gon and Gen, so Gongen. It seems he intended for it to be Gongen. There was no one to insert a tsukkomi for Jin's naming sense.

「Hanna, this is Gen. Gen, this child is Hanna. This child's instructions take priority after me」

「Acknowledged」

With that, in Kaina Village on this day, the two 《Guardians》 were born.

And with the help of the two, Jin installed windows made of muscovite for the houses in the village over three days.

CHAPTER 16

GOING OUT COLLECTING

「Then, I'll be going」

「Take care」

「Onii-chan...」

Jin had decided to do a full-scale collection on the remote mountains of Kaina Village where you could collect 《Magic Crystals》. Because it may be dangerous, Hanna was left to watch the house. He was going together with Rock.

「Tou-chan, see you later」

「Dear, you better not let Jin get hurt!」

「What if I got hurt...」

Rock had a child who was good at swimming, he was the father of Mario. Because it was the off-season, he asked to be guided. Leaving Gon in the village, and bringing Gen along to go collecting. Rock brought along his favourite bow and arrow.

「Although, Jin a 《Magic Craftsman》, huh? Ya pretty incredible」

Seeing the large amount of luggage Gen was carrying, Rock murmured.

「A long time ago, I wanted to be a knight, and I did go to the capital. In less than 2 years, I woke up from that dream and returned to the village」

「Is that so?」

「Aa. That's why I know the lifestyle in the capital reasonable well, however I've never seen magic tools like the ones Jin made, and there weren't any talking golems like Gon and Gen」

「A-Ahaha」

「Well, you'll probably be leaving the village some day. That's probably what ya want to do. However, I'll be happy if you showed your face at the village once in a while」

Unusually, Rock told this earnestly, and Jin seeing such an unusual thing, he made a face as if about to say something.

「Why... why are you making such a face?」

「Eh, no, that is, I was surprised that Rock-san was a person to be concerned」

「That compliment doesn't sound like a compliment」

while saying that, Rock's eyes looked like they were laughing.

「The people of Kaina Village are all good people, therefore of course, Rock-san is too.」

「Somehow that sounds forced but oh well... So, we'll be descending that valley?」

A valley that could be seen from the mountain pass. It was the valley he came to along with Hanna the other day.

「Ee. Last time I only went down a little bit, this time I want to go much further down」

He had planned to stay for night, so he had prepared the camp. Gen was carrying it.

「Okay, let's try going down」

So 2 people and 1 golem carefully descended the valley. They would take a detour if there was a waterfall, but continued if it was a thicket by having Gen deal with it.

And when a considerable amount of the day had passed, they arrived at an open area.

「Let's make camp here」

Rock had made such a judgement.

As he was told, he prepared the camp.

「First we'll remove things like the stone to flatten it. Gen, help me out」

「Yes」

With the help of Gen, the ground soon became flat. There he set up poles, using string so they wouldn't fall. Furthermore he laid beams horizontally across it and then covered it from above with a large cloth.

He first laid some cloth down for the ground, and then laid out furs for beds to finish it.

「Really, the various things that Gen has brought along has really helped us」

The two did not desire more for their camp.

「Okay, I'll do the preparation for dinner now, you can go find the things you're looking for Jin」

「Sure, now then」

So Jin left the preparation for dinner to Rock, and began searching for minerals.

「《Grand Search》！」

For a while, he used the magic 《Grand Search》 to look around, a large response appeared.

「Found it!」

Jin involuntarily shouted, and Rock came to look.

「Oh, let me see what you've found」

「Yeah. Now then Gen, dig here」

「Acknowledged」

Jin instructed Gen to dig the ground. Gen vigourously dug a hole.

「Oooohh, this is pretty incredible.」

The hole became deeper before their eyes. Gen stopped after digging about 3 metres. It then carried out a large black rock.

「What? It doesn't look like a good stone does it?」

「It's iron ore.」

Because the iron and copper used in the village was running out, this was indispensable.

「Continue mining more, Gen.」

「Hai.」

Last time was when he came with Gon, that was before he had improved them, so the golem could not make a distinction to a rock by itself. But this time it is different, with the limited knowledge Jin gave them, the materials Jin needs, excluding special ones, could be found autonomously to some extent.

A mountain of magnetite piled up. Sometimes, chalcopyrite came out mixed with it. Rock,

「Is that gold!?」

was excited about it, but became dejected when Jin explained.

Doing it until dusk, he was able to mine a considerable amount of minerals. The minerals were piled up distinctly. He planned to come back with Gon and Gen in the future.

「So, you weren't able to find the number one thing you were looking for?」

Rock asked while eating dinner.

「Ee, I'll leave that for tomorrow.」

The night for the valley came quickly. Without anything to do after dinner, he had Gen stand on guard and decided to go to sleep. Being tired from the walk, the two soon fell asleep.

The next morning, after breakfast, Jin once again used 《Grand Search》 to search for veins of 《Magic Crystals》.

Further down from the camp, a response finally came back.

「Okay, well then Gen, I'm counting on you」

「Affirmative」

The same as yesterday, Gen began to dig the ground. The first thing to appear was a yellow earth type 《Magic Crystal》. The thing Jin had wanted.

「Alright, keep on going. Steadily dig some more」

「Yes」

After that, a further two yellow 《Magic Crystals》 were dug out, and for a while nothing appeared (other than the usual rock), but then suddenly Gen's body gave out a sound and stopped moving,

「Master, my hand has broken」

Gen showed its broken hand while coming up from the hole.

「What!? For your hand I used 《Hardening》 on to break... could it be Adamantite!?」

Adamantite was the hardest mineral in this world. Jin entered the hole and examined the rock,

「It's definitely Adamantite. For it to be in such a shallow place」

murmuring that, he took out a flask from his waist,

「《Water Jet》！」

And cut the Adamantite vein.

And with that the mineral was barely cut.

「Well, I'm pretty lucky to have found it in such a shallow place. There's also a bonus」

The bonus was about the small amount of Mithril silver he found. Mithril silver or simply called Mithril is the best material to conduct magic. It's true identity is an isotope of silver. 47 protons, 60 neutrons or otherwise 62, would be regular silver, but for Mithril, neutrons are mostly replaced with the substance of magic power.

Enough of that, having found the materials he wanted, he made preparations to return home. Needless to say, he promptly repaired Gen's hand with engineering magic.

「Are you all good?」

「Yes, thanks to you I was able to find something good」

「Alright, the day is short, so lets return home」

At that time, Rock's eyes began to shine.

「Rock-san?」

「S-Shhh, be quiet」

Stopping Jin, Rock nocked an arrow to his bow. And then shot it towards the valley. *Pii*, with that sound he heard a scream,

「Alright I did it! A mountain deer!」

Rock ran over towards the valley and after a while, returned dragging a large deer.

「Look! This is an incredible spoil. Once we get back I'll make some dried meat」

A mountain deer was a valuable source of protein. They decided to come pick up a majority of the luggage later and it was decided they would bring back the mountain deer, camp tools and some of the minerals.

「However, I don't usually like such places like this during this season.」

Rock said while looking at the mountain deer on Gen's shoulder.

「Eh? Is that so?」

「Aa. Usually I'd have to go to a mountain further north to catch something, and that requires luck.」

Apparently you need to prepared to stay on the mountains for a few days to catch something usually. Though Jin was worried, he began to think about how to use the minerals he found and his worries disappeared to somewhere.

CHAPTER 17

HORSE GOLEM

From going out collecting this time, Jin had found a yellow earth type 《Magic Crystal》, as well as 15 small pieces. It was a considerable amount.

Additionally, Mithril Silver and Adamantite too. He could bring back all the 《Magic Crystals》 but all the minerals was impossible. So after Jin and Rock returned to the village, together with not just Gen but Gon too, he went to collect the minerals that was dug out.

The next day, with the two Golems that did not tire, they piled up all the minerals on the yard. When Jin looked at it, the amount he could use spread out before him, and he chuckled to himself.

「Onii-chan, what are you grinning about?」

When Hanna said that, Jin came to and tried to hide his smile in embarrassment,

「I-It's nothing」

「Is that so...? By the way, Rock-san is calling for you」

「Rock-san?」

When he left the yard wondering what it was, he saw Rock standing with something in his hand.

「Yo, Jin. This is the dried meat of the mountain deer. It's only a little, but I wanted to share this fellow with ya」

He was holding the dried meat of the mountain deer they caught on the way back from collecting. Since raw meat goes bad if left alone, by turning the meat that is a precious source of protein into dried meat, it can be preserved.

「Aa, thanks for going out of your way for this」

When Jin accepted it, Rock continued,

「The thing is, I have a little request for you today」

「What is it?」

「This time me and a few other were thinking to go hunting for mountain deer, but for carrying our luggage, could you lend Gon or Gen?」

With a Golem carrying the luggage, it would certainly be easier to enter the mountain. So Jin,

「Sure. Then please take along Gen」

「Ou, alright. Well then, I'll come by tomorrow morning」

Rock said and then returned home. Jin then looked at Gon and Gen,

「Un, right then, I should hurry up and get done with strengthening them」

「Onii-chan, what are you doing?」

Hanna who was still nearby heard Jin murmur and asked him.

「Hn? I'll be making Gon and Gen a little bit more stronger」

「They'll become stronger? Can I become stronger?」

「Haha, that's probably impossible. Shouldn't a girl be more graceful?」

Irresponsibly and nonchalantly Jin said that. Hanna hearing that,

「Is that how it is? So Onii-chan likes graceful girls more...」

she mumbled, but it did not enter Jin's ear who was focusing on his work.

「For now, I'll change the old hand and breastplate with Adamantite」

Last time, while digging for minerals, Gen's hand broke from digging Adamantite ore. And the breastplate is to protect the 《Mana Drive》, 《Ether Converter》, and 《Control Core》 made from 《Magic Crystal》 placed inside the chest. He decided to make the two from Adamantite.

「《Smelting》！」

He smelted the minerals into metal using magic. Among the impurities was tin, chromium, nickel and other metals mixed in which he stored away and planned to smelt later.

Though Jin did the process alone, he was not aware about how it was far from the norm. Well, there wasn't anyone in Kaina Village to point this out, therefore things continued on peacefully.

「Alright, with this the bodies of these two are now robust」

And he was still not aware that Gon and Gen were gradually becoming more of an outrageous Golem.

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「Well then, Rock-san, Jeff-san, Yang-san, take care」

「Ou, we'll be going」

「Dear, take care」

「Gen, I leave Rock-san and the others to you」

「Acknowledged, Master」

The next morning, Rock and two others went out to hunt mountain deer. Some of the children would go along partway to have fun. Mario went of course and Hanna too.

And speaking of Jin, he had begun working on making something new.

That is, a Horse Golem.

Golems have a humanoid form, the reason why they can control their movement is because stored in the 《Control Core》 is the movement information of a human. In other words, it's only because the person who made it has an understanding of human movement..

However, that did not apply to Jin who is a 《Magi Craft Meister》. He had the analysed data for walking on the four legs inherited from his predecessor. In this respect, this period is behind that of the past. Truly, war was an unpleasant thing.

Back to the story, Jin had begun making a 《Pony》. To start with, he thought to make a mean of transport exclusively for Hanna.

Unlike an 《Automata》, the structure of a Golem was simple (but that's based on Jin's standards).

「Well, its capabilities should be good for an adult」

The exterior is bronze hardened by magic, at first glance a person would understand it was artificial. For that he thought it would be good if it was somehow of a normal category.

Using the Adamantite for the frame, its durability raised but it was no longer a horse.

「I should consider speed more than power and endurance」

So he used two 《Magic Crystals》 each for the 《Mana Drive》 and 《Ether Converter》. It had already become a monster-class.

「One should be fine for the 《Control Core》」

Because a complex autonomous behaviour wasn't needed, a small 《Magic Crystal》 was used.

「Okay, creating 《Control System》 ... un, I've gotten used to it」

Jin simulated the movement of a horse in his brain, then converted it into a movement control method. This series of processes could be done because he was the 《Magi Craft Meister》, for a normal 《Magic Craftsman》 it would be impossible, and Jin was not aware of that.

「Then, so it's easy to get on I'll attach this saddle... and it's complete!」

With the 《Pony》 completed, with the same structure, he made another Horse Golem for himself. Its size was slightly larger, though it was still a bit smaller than a normal horse. Because it would be hard to get on and off if it was big.

「Onii-chan, what are you making... Horse?」

Just when the second one was completed, Hanna came back.

「Yo Hanna, you're right on time. Listen here. This small horse here I made just for you」

Hearing that, Hanna's reddish brown eyes widened up.

「Eh? My horse?」

Because it was only the village chief that had a horse in Kaina Village, it was a natural question. Jin gently smiled,

「Aa, that's right. Hold on for a moment」

saying that he turned towards the Horse Golem,

「Activate」

The two Golems rose up. And then Jin, towards his own horse,

「Let's see... I'll name you, 『Koma』. Your name is 『Koma』」

Koma. Did he mean horse? There was nothing left to say. And next he turned towards Hanna,

「Hanna, go ahead and name this horse here」

「I get to? Un, then 『Mint』!」

This herb was also in this world. Its colour was that of verdigris so it might match. At least it was better than Jin's naming sense.

「OK, I name you 『Mint』 . Your master is this child」

Mint looked at Hanna and bowed. It seems to have understood.

「Alright, Hanna, try riding it」

「Eh? I haven't ridden a horse before though?」

「It's okay. Because this will be simpler than a horse」

Saying that, Jin put Hanna onto 『Mint』 . It was a 《Pony》 so once Hanna got used to it she could get on it alone.

「Oh yeah. You put your foot up on that 『Stirrup』 . Un, now hold onto this handle」

「Eh? What is this?」

Something was protruding from the base of the Horse Golem's neck. No matter how you looked at it, it was a bike handle. Right, Jin used the control method of a bike for the Horse Golem.

To the Hanna who was nervously sitting over Mint, Jin taught her the basics.

「The right hand is the accelerator, if you twist it, it'll start moving. To stop, you twist back the accelerator, then clasp the break lever. And for when you want to turn, you turn the handle and the horse will turn in proportion to how much you turn it.」

After teaching that, he got on his own 『Koma』 ,

「Well then, try walking. It'll be fine, I'll move together with you」

To begin with, so the horse didn't run wild, he added a 《Limiter》 , so Mint could never run wild.

「U-Un」

Hanna softly twisted the accelerator. Accordingly, Mint slowly began walking.

「Waa, it moved!」

Pakapaka, was the peculiar movement 『Mint』 made when walking. Jin followed along with 『Koma』.

「Good, good. Try twisting the accelerator a bit more.」

「Un!」

Then, the walking pace of Mint raised in speed, becoming a trot. This was the maximum speed for the current setting.

「Waa, this is fun!」

Having adjusted to the stability of the saddle and stirrup, Hanna managed to safely ride Mint. Jin was relieved.

CHAPTER 18

THREATENING SIGNS

After two days, Hanna had become completely accustomed to 『Mint』, and was now able to gallop with the limiter released.

Speaking of Jin, because it would be too hard to make one Golem for each house, he created 5 communal Horse Golems. At that time, there wasn't enough materials from mining, but thanks to Jin's exclusive Horse Golem 『Koma』, he finished it all in a day needless to say.

「Jin, this horse is great」

「It's good that we don't have to feed them」

「Wow, more than that, their strength is really powerful. Also rather than a normal horse, there are 5 of these」

In any case, the reputation of the Horse Golems was good. By the way, their names are 『Ein』 『Zwei』 『Drei』 『Quatre』 『Cinq』. 1, 2 and 3 in German. And 4 and 5 in French.

Jin's naming sense seemed to be particular about 3 characters... let's not say anymore about it.

◊ – ◊ – ◊

Rock and the others came back. In a week of mountain hunting, they literally brought back a mountain of game. Of course, Gen was carrying it.

「Welcome back, Dear.」

「Welcome back Tou-chan」

「You guys, welcome back. Did you get hurt?」

「Ou, I'm back. Mario, did you grow a little taller?」

「You're a fool Dear, he wouldn't change in just a week.」

For the first time in a week, the families happily welcomed them back. And they then left the luggage, immediately going to the hot springs to wash away sweat and dirt.

That night they had a large feast of meat. People gathered to Rock's house and he told them his stories. Of course Jin was also invited.

「Jeez, we sure caught a lot. After going down to the bottom of the valley and waiting, a herd of mountain deer came. It was pretty simple to shoot them. The difficult part was skinning the leather and removing the organs.」

「Didn't any dangerous beasts come out?」

「Aa. Only once, a forest bear had come, but it went back after filling itself from eating some mackerel.」

Although grilled meat with a bit of salt was a simple thing, the meat was still exceptional after one week had passed.

「If there's this much dried meat, it's plenty enough to last one winter.」

「Wouldn't smoking it be good too?」

When Jin suggested that,

「Smoking? What is that?」

he was asked back.

「Smoking is where you burn wood chips, and then use the smoke from it to dry the meat.」

「Hou, is that also a method from Jin's hometown?」

「You could say that.」

「Isn't it fine? We have plenty of meat, so let's try that smoking!」

So they immediately tried it out the next day. Using the Kueri Tree they cut down from the forest of trees. He had heard that when Spring comes, this tree turns into a white flower blooming tree, 「Is this tree like a sakura tree?」 Jin had thought and decided to test it with this tree.

The result.

It turned out well.

Originally the method of smoking wasn't too difficult in itself. Because the concept was just burning wood for smoke rather than a flame, then using the heat and smoke to dry the meat.

Having rubbed the smoked meat in salt, they ate the meat right there.

「This is delicious. It makes me want to drink some alcohol!」

「You drank plenty yesterday, so no you don't!」

Such an argument was exchanged and most of the meat was smoked.

In the crowd, Rock was only one with a glum look. Having noticed it, Jin approached Rock and called out to him.

「Rock-san, what are you brooding about?」

「Jin huh? I had a bad feeling for how much mountain deer we caught, I was thinking about that」

「So, did you think of anything?」

「Aa. I thought of several things」

Thereupon Jin gave him some advice.

「At these times, if you let someone hear it, then there'll be more ideas to settle it」

「I see. Then, can I have you listen?」

「What's wrong?」

There Yang who went together mountain hunting came over, Rock began speaking to the two.

「I was thinking about the reason for why those guys were on the verge of moving, first, a problem with food」

「That's true, if there's nothing left to eat then they'll move to search for some」

Yang nodded.

「Second, when they're being pursued by an enemy. That would be a pack of Rock Wolf」

「Certainly, they would run away from their natural enemy」

Jin also agreed with the reason.

「Third. For a herd of mountain deer, in the case the herd grows too big, a young deer would make another herd, and they would separate to live」

「However, from all of this time's game, there was no young deer」

Yang presented a problem with this idea.

「Aa, that's right. That may happen sometimes by chance, however the most likely one would probably be being pursued by an enemy」

「Is the possibility for food low?」

Jin asked Rock who nodded,

「Aa. From the feeling of what we saw, snow hasn't appeared in the remote mountains where the mountain deer are yet, and the greenery has yet to change from the usual. I wouldn't think it's a shortage of food.」

「Which would mean...」

It would mean that something, some beast were pursuing them.

Then, Rock leaned forward,

「We can somehow manage mountain deer, but a Rock Wolf is troublesome. They're nocturnal and their attacks in packs are difficult」

Jin,

「Have any Rock Wolves attacked the village before?」

tried to ask. And Rock shook his head,

「No, I haven't heard of it since I was born. However, it happened once in my grandfather's time」

「I see...」

Folding his arms, Jin pondered. Rock,

「Therefore, because I can't decide what to do, I was thinking about talking to everyone to come up with something」

「Aniki, then shouldn't we send out a scout to see?」

Yang said.

「Scouting huh? That would be right. This time we will need to go much farther back and see. Yang, you say some good things once a year」

「Chie, that doesn't sound like a compliment」

「Well then, we should tell the village chief about this」

Jin said, and Rock nodded,

「Well let's do that」

That night, a discussion was held at the village chief's home, they were deciding who to send from the village for reconnaissance. For preparing a countermeasure of the dangers, Jin placed his opinion in.

Of course, the plan included the Horse Golems Jin made.

It was decided both Rock and Yang would use the Horse Golem for scouting. Departure was in 2 days. In that time, the two would get used to maneuvering the Horse Golem.

And the next day, the two practised.

「O-Owaaa!」

Using the accelerator too much, the Horse Golem reared up and shook him off.

「Gyaaa」

He was thrown forward after suddenly stopping from a gallop.

But though they were covered in wounds, they were both able to master maneuvering a Horse Golem in a day.

「Well then, I'll be going」

「Dear, a-a-absolutely don't act recklessly!」

「Tou-chan, be careful」

The atmosphere was more tense than the last mountain hunt, the two 『Scouts』 rode the Horse Golems 『Ein』 and 『Zwei』, and headed off to the mountain.

CHAPTER 19

WEAPON DEVELOPMENT

The village had sent out scouts, and discussing if there was anything else he could do, it was decided he would make a fence for the field.

With it, the crops would be protected from harmful creatures, so making it would not be pointless.

Cutting down trees, producing logs, he covered the perimeter of the field. The work progressed quickly with the help of the villagers in addition to Gon and Gen, as well as the Horse Golems Drei, Quatre, and Cinq. It was a speed that one would call abnormal if they were to see it all.

Day 3 after the departure of the scouts.

「Haa, I somehow made the shape」

Jin helped out with the work by cutting the trees into logs (with Engineering Magic), but the number of necessary logs to make was done, and he now had some time for himself.

「Just in case... I want a weapon」

Jin thought. Right now the materials are scarce, so making a special weapon is unlikely. At best would be an edged tool made out of Adamantite.

「Well, I don't want it to go to waste, shall I make an axe and nata...?」

He decided to make an edged tool to use for his usual livelihood. Although there wasn't much left because to make the Horse Golems, iron was used for the body, and Adamantite for the exterior, so he could not make much. But he was still able to make 10 axes and 20 natas.

「All that's left is a weapon for myself, huh?」

Jin could not boast as his physical strength and athletic ability were low. Compared to the men of the village he would be the lowest level. Therefore close combat is unreasonable. Although, he was also unskilled with the bow.

「After all it will have to be 『・・』」

So Jin muttered and began making a Water Gun. It was a pistol model with a large tank attached type.

「Onii-chan, what are you making?」

Day after day, Hanna came to Jin's workshop (though it's really Hanna's grandfather's workshop).

「Yaa, Hanna. I'm making a Water Gun」

「Water Gun?」

To begin with, in this world there's no such thing as a 『Gun』, so saying 『Water Gun』 would not get through to her.

「Well, just take a look」

Since the structure in itself was not too complicated, he immediately completed one. It was a water tank attachment model.

「...?」

For Hanna who didn't understand it well,

「This here, you put water into it, then you hold it like this, then pull this trigger...」

Chuu~ the water flew out.

「Waa! It looks fun!」

To people with the exception of Jin it was merely a toy, so he decided to give the Water Gun to Hanna.

「Though this is really something to play with in the hot summer」

「But still, thank you! It's really fun!」

Hanna delightfully received the Water Gun and went out to play with it.

「... with this I'll have to make some for the other children」

Jin realised, so he made 10 more Water Guns of the same type. With a thing of this degree, after making it once he could easily mass-produce it.

Incidentally, because there isn't any plastic, all of it was made of 《Muscovite》 so it was light and hard to break.

After that, for his own weapon, he increased the capacity of the water tank, and with 2 pistons it raised the accuracy. He then made two of the type where the main part of the Water Gun without the water tank could fire water.

If this is used together with Jin's Engineering Magic 《Water Jet》, it would be a fearsome weapon.

「But I still can't protect the whole village」

Feeling at peace is forbidden, was what Jin warned himself.

After that, Kurt and Mario who found Hanna playing with a Water Gun came over, needless to say they were all provided Water Guns.

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Then a peaceful two days followed. And on the third day, the scouts came back.

「Oh~! Rock and Yang, you're safe!」

「Aa, thanks to this horse」

After the two had a short break, they began the report of the scouting in the village chief's house.

「At first there weren't any problems...」

The point that there was no problem with the mountain deer was made.

「From there we advanced further back for a day, but not much had changed. Then, we went around to the west a little」

They had been going straight north, so they changed course 90 degrees to the left.

「Around there nothing had changed. We felt relieved, and once again headed north. And then...」

「What is it?」

「..... we stumbled upon a place with the bones of mountain deer rolling around」

「What!?!」

「Feeling that it was dangerous, we mounted our horses and then, a big Wood Bear appeared. Looking at it, it was dragging a mountain deer still dripping in blood」

「A Wood Bear!?!」

「Aa. So, listen, and don't be too surprised」

「...? What?」

「For that big Wood Bear, there are 10 in total that appeared there」

「No way?!」

Whose cry could that have been? That cry spoke the feelings of all that gathered there. A Wood Bear was a dangerous beast that could be barely hunted with three or four skilled hunters. And to say there's 10.

「Why, in such a place...」

Normally a large herd of mountain deer would not come south, so then why would the mountain deer come south? The mountain deer and Wood Bear live in a remote mountains, while Kaina Village is in the back of the mountains, and the mostly vegetation-less valley is in between, therefore there was almost no threat of a beast for Kaina Village.

But now that the mountain deer had crossed over to this side of the valley, it would be likely that the Wood Bear would also come in pursuit.

That was the conclusion made today. So Jin,

「Just in case, I made a some sturdy axes and natas. Please come and take it later」

saying that, the village chief,

「Aa, I see. Jin, you being here really help. Well then, Jeff and Tom, go and get it with Jin. For now I'll take care of it」

「Understood」

So with Jeff and Tom, Jin returned to Martha's house, and piled up in the workshop, Jeff carried the axes while Tom carried natas.

Jin reported to Martha in the house about the contents of the meeting.

「I see, so the mountain deer and Wood Bear may have come to such a place. I'll need to tell Hanna to be careful」

「That's right. For the time being the mountain to the north is dangerous so don't go there」

He warned Hanna,

「Un. But is the river fine?」

There was little danger for the Erume River to the south. The children would act unreasonably if he were to say no for everything. Jin knew such things from seeing the small children from the orphanage.

Saying that the river was fine, Hanna went to play in the river with her Water Gun.

After that, it was decided to monitor the north mountain everyday in turns. But after 2 days, then 3 days, nothing abnormal happened. When the villagers began to think that they were worried too much, it happened.

After breakfast, Jeff who was on lookout duty found a cloud of dust coming from the north mountain. Looking closely, there was a large herd of mountain deer coming down from the mountain.

「Oiii! Mountain deer are coming down from the mountain!」

He hurriedly informed the village. The village chief and Rock, as well as Jin came out to see it.

「This is... their movement looks like they're being pursued by something」

Rock said while stroking his chin.

「If it's the Wood Bear, then they'll show up a in a little bit」

The village chief agreed.

「If that's the case, first we need to lead the mountain deer in another direction so they don't come to the village」

Everyone agreed with Jin's opinion. So Jin, Rock, Jeff and Rick mounted a Horse Golem and decided to lead the mountain deer towards the forest to the west.

「We're going!」

With Rock leading, and after that is Jeff then Rick. Jin was the rear guard.

「Be careful」

With voices of worries to their backs, the four Horse Golems quickly grew smaller and smaller.

「It'll be fine, the other party this time are mountain deer. Now, go inside your houses」

The village chief tried to relieve the worried women.

「Onii-chan...」

Hanna stared in the direction where Jin and the others faded away till the end.

CHAPTER 20

HERDING

「Okay, around here should be good」

Rock was travelling as the lead, seeing the terrain he made the decision.

「If it's here, we should be able to divert the herd of mountain deer」

It's impossible to divert the herd perpendicularly. Therefore, they would have to have them turn in a slow curve. And the optimal terrain for that was before them.

It was about a two metre ramp. Though you could say it was a cliff that did not rise steeply, still it could not be called a slope.

If guiding them here goes well, their course would change to the west, after that they would just run straight ahead.

「Listen, us four people will need to maintain a distance, we'll successfully guide the deer by keeping in a line. Let's go with some fighting spirit!」

「Ou!」

Jin and the others headed towards the cloud of dust in the distance with the Horse Golems. Their distance quickly shortened.

「Okay, turn around! Then we'll slowly run once those guys come. We'll need to match their speed to keep up with the deer. And then we'll shift them west little by little.」

Because he had wanted to be a knight, Rock's instructions were precise.

The herd of mountain deer came. The four men smoothly maneuvered their Horse Golems, matching the speed of the herd.

「Alright, that's it! Let's keep this up!」

They could cooperate because the Horse Golems could change their speed with an accelerator. If it was a real horse, the cooperation so far would require a considerable amount of training.

「As expected of Rock-san」

Jin maneuvering 『Koma』 last in line was impressed. Although there wasn't anyone close to him in crafting, such strategy would likely not be possible for Jin.

「We'll push a little more to the right here!」

To Rock's instructions, the Horse Golems shifted their course to the right. The herd of mountain deer accordingly shifted their course to the right.

「Keep going and we'll reach the place from before」

The group moved forward to the 45 degree ramp from before. The leading deer did not like the ramp and diverted further to the right.

「That's it! If it goes on like this they'll be diverted」

Diverting the herd parallel to the ramp, they moved away from the village. Having distanced enough away from the village,

「Alright, it'll be good now. Let's go back!」

So as to not stimulate the mountain deer, the four men returned to Kaina Village by drawing a large arc. They were no longer worried about the mountain deer heading towards the village.

「As expected of Rock-san」

When Jin said that to Rock in line,

「As expected of Aniki! Who would have thought it would go so well!」

「Indeed」

The other members also unanimously praised Rock.

「Stop it with all that flattering. More importantly, we need to decide about the other dangerous beast entering the village. Let's hurry back!」

Seeming uncharacteristically embarrassed, Rock pushed on the Horse Golem accelerator, speeding up towards the village. Jin and the others followed after a little behind.

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In the end no further unusual events occurred, once again a lookout was placed and the day grew dark.

Since the guiding during the daytime would make one tired, Jin quickly fell asleep. However, around midnight, a big rumble woke him up.

「W-What!？」

Going outside curious of what it is, the other side of the north mountain shined red. The light grew paler while looking at it, soon disappearing. Jin somehow had an idea of what it was and he felt a cold sweat flowing down his back.

「I wonder what that was?」

「What in the world was that light?」

「It couldn't be the mountain collapsing could it?」

The rumbling had awakened everyone, and seeing the same red light, they anxiously murmured.

「Magic... Explosion...」

Though a person who can't use magic could not feel it, Jin had clearly felt it. Some 《・》 or some 《・》, something possessing powerful magic was brought down. Or perhaps a 《Core》 was destroyed.

A 《Core》 is something a demon possesses, it is the root of their magic. Because it controls all their magic, when that magic is destroyed and the magic power rampages, it causes an explosion.

「However if it's on that scale, how frightening of a demon could it be」

From what Jin had judged, though it wouldn't be a Dragon, it would be a demon possessing an extremely close amount of magic power. The opponent to defeat such a demon... The current Jin would stand no chance against.

「Is there something I can do with 《Water Jet》 ...?」

Even if 《Water Jet》 is strong, only Jin could use it. For example if there were multiple enemies, it is unthinkable for him to be able to protect the entire village.

「This is really bad... huh」

But there was no option of escape for Jin. He did not want to throw away the village that was like a second home and escape.

「A shelter... huh?」

The conclusion Jin came to was a shelter. For an emergency, all the villagers could take refuge in the shelter he made.

「I need to start immediately」

Jin began making the shelter without saying anything to anyone because he did not want them to worry. The location was a rock face in the village outskirts. Calling the Golems Gon and Gen, he issued them instructions.

「Gon, Gen, dig out a big hole here. Enough to fit all the villagers in」

「Acknowledged」

The two began digging immediately. Making the hands of Adamantite paid off, and they easily dug through the hard rock.

「That's it, dig it more deeply」

He wanted it at least 10 metres deep.

The dug out rock is compressed and hardened and used to reinforce the interior of the hole. With that, the rock around did not pile and the digging was done efficiently. Though it would take some time being dug diagonally, it would surely become easier to use.

「Alright, that's it. Slowly dig out the living space. The height of the ceiling should be about 3 metres」

While reinforcing the walls, Jin continued issuing instructions. With such harsh work, even the Golems became damaged, and so as to not slow down the work, Jin immediately repaired them.

It was soon dawn. Jin decided to return to Martha's house for the moment. Gon and Gen continued to work.

「Good morning」

「Good morning, Onii-cha...?」

Seeing Jin, Hanna's eyes rounded.

「What's wrong Onii-chan? Your face looks terrible」

He was told and Jin looked at the reflection of his face in the water, with bloodshot eyes, and dark circles under his eyes. Of course Hanna would be surprised.

「A-Aa, I didn't get much sleep last night...」

Then Martha came and the same as Hanna, she was surprised seeing Jin's face.

「Jin! What's wrong!? If something happens to you now, what will the village do?」

「Eh...?」

With that frighteningly angry shout, Jin looked at Martha in surprise.

「You, do you not understand it yourself? The scouting, the fences, and defending against the mountain deer yesterday, without you, would we have been able to do it? It is because you are here that everyone can feel at ease」

「Do you mean... me?」

「Aa that's right. You are already a splendid member of this village. It looks like you're trying to do something yourself, am I right? In this village, we all share our hardships and joy」

With Martha saying that, involuntarily the corner of Jin's eye grew hot.

「Thank you very much. I...」

Martha pushed Jin's shoulder,

「You look like you're lacking sleep. Sa, hurry up and sleep. You'll feel better with a little sleep」

With that said, Jin once again,

「Thank you very much」

said his thanks, and dropped on his bed.

「Onii-chan...」

To the worried Hanna, Martha,

「Shh, let him get some sleep now. When he wakes up we'll give him warm porridge to eat」

said, and Martha led Hanna out of the room.

5 hours, Jin soundly slept, he ate breakfast and lunch at the same time, then rushed back to the digging of the shelter. Half of this was to hide his embarrassment.

「Quite a bit has been done...」

The operation of Gon and Gen somewhat worsened with Jin gone. Jin immediately repaired them, then checked the inside. About 8% of the plan seems to be done.

「Alright, at this rate I'll make it in time」

However, the time for this hard work to be in vain came.

「Jin! So this is where you were! Trouuble!」

Rock came flying over out of breath.

「Rock-san? What is it?」

「T-That is, from the north mountain...」

「From the north mountain?」

「...something unbelievable is coming...」

「Eh? No way?」

Was it a strange looking monster? Or was it a huge demon beast?

「Anyway, have a look with your own eyes...」

So he stopped with the shelter for a moment, taking along Gon and Gen, Jin came to the protection fence at the north side of the village.

「Ou, Jin. That, what do you see?」

There in the direction where the lookout Tom pointed...

「...eh?」

A girl wearing a blue one piece and a white apron dress. Her silk black hair fluttered.

「That is...」

The girl finds Jin in the far distant, then in an instant the figure blurs and,

「Father!」

The next moment Jin was embraced.

And then.

「Father!？」

The voices of everyone faded away into the sky.

CHAPTER 21

CHAT 1: THE WANDERING AUTOMATA

After Jin was sent away by the 《Warp Gate》 and lost somewhere, the 《Automata》 also used the same 《Warp Gate》 to search for Jin.

A moment of malfunctioning, and the 《Automata》 was sent above the sea.

Splash, and then the 《Automata》 sunk. Having a body relatively the same as a human body in weight, she should be able to easily swim, however the materials for the return 《Warp Gate》 were heavy.

The weight was about 20kg, and the 《Automata》 dragged it under water for nearly 30km.

However, she was not an ordinary 《Automata》. Jin constructed her without restraint, so to speak, she was a 《Super Automata》. Her physical strength was tens of times that of a human, and her stamina almost infinite. If she moved her delicate limbs, she would be able to effortlessly get out of the sea.

「This place is...」

Looking over into the far distance, the silhouette of an island could be seen beyond the horizon. The 《Automata》 began swimming towards there for now. Wearing clothes and also carrying 20kg of luggage, the speed exceeded 60 knots (111+km/h). There were probably no aquatic creatures faster than her.

In an hour, the 《Automata》 arrived on the island. Though it's an island, it was fairly big.

「This is... the island where the laboratory is? No, it can't be...」

If where she landed was where she departed, the island where the laboratory is, it would be quite surprising. Because the 『island』 she knew was a much more smaller island.

The island from her memory is a volcanic island, with a mountain towering at the centre of the island that always puffed out smoke. That is, now without smoke, its height was taller than 1000 metres. Its height above sea level exceeds 3000 metres. She could see snow on the surface of the summit.

「It might have raised after 1000 years」

She murmured with an expressionless voice and headed towards the direction in where the laboratory would be. Walking through the open forest and meadows on the island was simple. Because it was not the tropics, there was no dense forest.

「There doesn't seem to be any large animals」

She saw insects, birds, and also small mammals and reptiles, as well as amphibians. The organisms had not changed much from the original island.

The laboratory was all over in the plateau of the island, it was underground. From the time required so far, the 『Automata』 roughly understood the size of the current island.

「It's increased by more than 100 times... well, I don't think it's an inconvenience」

Originally it was around the area of Miyakejima of the Shichito Izu, but the area is now about that of Shikoku. That is over 300 times more.

However, the 『Automata』 advanced without particularly caring about it. Then she arrived at the entrance to the laboratory. Though it was covered in ivy, the original resident, the 『Automata』 was able to immediately find it. Before her strength, the tangled ivy was no more than a weed on the road side, and opening the door quickly, the 『Automata』 entered inside.

「Right, once again」

Not knowing fatigue, she got on the 『Warp Gate』 once again, causing it to malfunction again.

This time, the 『Automata』 arrived in a desert.

「So it's a desert. Now, the direction where people are is... that way.」

She moved proceeded to move towards where she could sense a little magic power. Not knowing fatigue, she faced the scorching day and freezing night, finally arriving at a town in 4 days.

「Father... does not seem to be here.」

Not mistaking the magic Jin used to make her, she determined that Jin was not here.

「There should be a 《Warp Gate》 to return to the laboratory set up somewhere around here.」

Inside a cave half way up a rocky mountain far away from the town, there was a 《Warp Gate》 set up there. A boulder sealed the entrance, so strangers could not enter. Furthermore there was a protection barrier.

Well, using a function that distinguished magic power, it could not be used except by Jin and other authorised people (including the Automata).

「Well then... transfer.」

And so the 《Automata》 had returned to the laboratory.

The third transfer.

This time arriving in the middle of a wasteland. 7 days to a human settlement. Returning back to the laboratory with a 《Warp Gate》 set up nearby.

The fourth time was a land inhabited by demons. Most of the demons ignored the 《Automata》, some came to attack, and were helplessly repelled. Among them were the 《Sham Dragon》 species. The hide and wings, fangs and bones seemed to be good materials, so they were collected and with the set up 《Warp Gate》 she returned to the laboratory. After returning, the materials were classified and stored to be used at any time.



And like that, the 《Automata》 without thinking that Jin was dead, went out to search for him over and over again.

And now, not counting every time, she no longer knew the amount of transfers.

This time was a place with snow. With the weight the 《Automata》 carried, she buried into the snow. The dry snow, powder snow gave no resistance, and she wasn't likely to get out no matter how much she tried to move her limbs.

「It can't be helped, 《Heat》！」

The body of the 《Automata》 grew hot. Controlling it so it was at a level to not affect the luggage she was carrying while she melted the snow. Although it took time because the parts of the 《Warp Gate》 are weak to heat, she was somehow able to successfully get out of the snow after a whole day.

「Now then, where is this?」

She climbed on top of a rock and looked around. It looked quite like a high mountain.

「The snow should decrease if I descend. Though, which way should I go...」

Perhaps because of the range, she could not sense the presence of human magic power.

「This time I should ask to strengthen this area function」

The function to search for Jin needs to be strengthened, but it can't be done without Jin, so first she needs to search for Jin, and therefore it's a situation that goes around in a circle.

「Going South should be safe」

The season is Winter, so she determined that it was better to head towards the South than to the North, and descended down along the ridge to the mountain with little snow. Sometimes the wind silently blows down, and it takes time for 《Heat》 for when it is undone, so it took 3 days to arrive to a point with little snow.

Now, before her eyes was a 3000 metre class mountain. Looking back, the mountain she descended, was a glacier 6000 metre class mountain.

「This will likely take some more time. A place where the 《Warp Gate》 can be set up should be a little bit beyond here.」

The 《Automata》 headed towards the 3000 metre class mountain. Though, it wasn't necessary to honestly cross over the summit, in any case she headed towards the saddle between the mountains.

Still in the vicinity of the ridge where the fallen snow reached over 1 metre, it took 2 day to complete the second mountain.

「There shouldn't be any problems after this」

Finished with the 3000 metre ridge, all that remained was a rocky mountain of less than 2000 metres. The 《Automata》 intended to set up the 《Warp Gate》 up around the summit.

Without any snow, she climbed up after half a day.

The day had already turned dark after reaching the summit, but it did not matter to her as she could see in the dark.

The summit she climbed up on was wide, and there seemed to be a cave that looked good to set up the 《Warp Gate》 .

「That place looks good」

The 《Automata》 approached it. Then, she flew far back and fell. Looking over to the place she had stood, something large gouged out.

「..... 《Hekatonkheires》 is it?」

It was a giant with a height of 20 metres and 100 arms. Climbing up the slope from the opposite side of her, it suddenly threw a boulder it held.

「Is it a demon type magic power that it has stored inside? That must be why I couldn't sense it」

Even now the 《Automata》 calmly analysed her opponent. A giant type demon, the amount of magic it can't use is large. Instead it used its large body, and the magic inside is consumed to maintain it.

Therefore the magic power that leaked out was very small, and she determined that she could not perceive it right now.

「If not for the luggage on my back, it would be an opponent I could face up front... it can't be helped」

The 《Automata》 murmured her resignation, and raised the operation of what had been 5 percent of the 《Ether Converter》 up to 20 percent.

At the same time she raised the operations of the 《Mana Drive》, her magic power was immediately refined. And then.

「《Mana Explosion》！」

She threw her strongest attack magic. The output is 20 percent.

It crashed into and engulfed the 《Hekatonkheires》 own 《Core》, causing a huge explosion, and that large body was extinguished in an instant.

The advantage of this magic is that it is possible to extinguish only the opponent's magic power. There is no effect on the terrain in the vicinity of the summit. The cave is also fine.

「... suppression complete. Although I think it's a little bit wasteful, it couldn't be helped. Besides that」

The materials left behind could be useful, so she felt it was a little wasteful to completely extinguish it, but there was something more important to her.

「... this magic power, without a doubt it's Father」

Finally coming here, she was able to sense Jin's magic power.

「I need to hurry up and set up the 《Warp Gate》」

In the cave of the 《Hekatonkheires》 she just suppressed, the 《Automata》 went to set up a 《Warp Gate》 .

In the surroundings were the bones of the prey of 《Hekatonkheires》 , the Wood Bear that were scattered and thrown to the the bottom of the valley.

Carefully constructing the 《Warp Gate》 , she confirmed its operation. When complete, she used it once to return to the laboratory, then immediately came back again to get a feel of it. All of it was for the sake of Jin. In the event that something goes wrong when Jin uses it to return to the laboratory, the 《Automata》 itself would destroy itself.

It was dawn when everything was completed. The 《Automata》 hurriedly descended the mountain. Crossing over and beyond another low mountain.

While crossing the low mountain, a small village could be seen. Near the fence that stood on the outskirts, it was the figure of the person the 《Automata》 wanted to see, she had found the figure of Jin, and she let out an output of 100 percent.

It gave her a speed close to the speed of sound, and she moved a distance of more than 100 metres in an instant. And then before the 《Automata》 .

「Father!」

Searching for around 6 months, there stood the 《Creator》 with a face of astonishment.

CHAPTER 22

FATHER AND DAUGHTER?

「... you must have been through a lot」

Jin was now hugging the 《Automata》 and patting her head.

「Aah, it seems you're in the middle of something, but could you explain it to us so that we can understand?」

Finally irritated, Rock called out. To that voice, the 《Automata》 separated a little bit from Jin.

「My apologies. I have been searching for my missing Father for a long time」

Furthermore for those words, Jin momentarily interrupted,

「No, not here, hmm, how about we talk about it at the village chief's house. Would that be fine, Rock-san?」

「A-Aa, that's fine... so, were there any dangers in the mountain?」

「If you mean the mountain from which I came from, there were no dangers. Although 《Hekatonkheires》 was being a hindrance, so I exterminated it」

「Aa, I see. Then that's goo... 《Hekatonkheires》 !!??」

To Rock's knowledge, 《Hekatonkheires》 is a 《Monster》 that usually takes a squadron of people to subjugate. Besides Rock, the village residents did not know that so he was simply glad that the danger was gone.

「Not Jin but that girl(?) is unbelievable...」

Rock muttered and followed after everyone after falling behind a little. Jin glanced at the 《Automata》,

「You... right, I didn't give you a name」

「Yes, Father」

「Hey, that Father thing...」

「Because it was a male who created me, it is appropriate I call them Father」

「Aa, so that's it」

Jin could somehow understand that, that is to say he was completely convinced.

「Then my predecessor would be Mother」

「Yes, Adrianna Balbora Ceci is my Mother」

Jin felt that the 《Automata》 was considerably like a human. It was because of the transfer of Jin's knowledge. Jin could vaguely feel it.

「If that's how it is, it will have to be a name...」

After Jin thought for a little,

「Okay, from now on your name is Reiko」

For Jin it was quite a decent name.

This is because he heard from the director of the orphanage that his name, Jin was a character take from 『Jingreichishin』, and like that he chose a character for a girl among the 5 characters, it was nothing else but that.

「Yes. Thank you very much. From now on I am 『Reiko』」

While having that talk, they arrived at the village chief's house. Jin told Reiko to keep in mind one thing.

「Listen Reiko, leave the things about the 《Warp Gate》 a secret」

he turned around and whispered that instruction to her so other people could not hear.

At that time, the village chief Gibekku came out from doing something at the table.

「What are you all here for?」

Rock who was behind walked out to the front, and so the story about 『Reiko』 was summarised, finishing that he wanted the full story to be heard.

「I see, if you say there's no more danger than that's good. Come on, step inside」

「Thank you very much」

So there was Jin, Reiko, the village chief, Rock, Tom, and the other men. And furthermore, the people in the village that had their hands free came in succession. Thanks to the wide living room of the village chief's house, it was now filled with people.

「Well then, lets hear your story」

The village chief started.

「Then I'll speak first」

The first to begin talking was Jin.

「This child is Reiko that my predecessor made, and an 『Automata』 I repaired. It seems she has continued searching for me after the 『Warp Gate』 malfunctioned and sent me here」

「Yes. Because the destination of Father was gone, I...」

After that in response to Jin, the 『Automata』 briefly explained what had happened till now. Of course leaving out the details of the 『Warp Gate』. Though it still caught the interest of those who listened.

「... is what has happened」

After the end of Reiko's long story, no one spoke for a while. Everyone admired the loyalty of Reiko, sympathising with her hardship, and were amazed of her strength.

「I see, so it's that 《Hekatonkheires》 fault that the mountain deer came here fleeing from their habitat」

When Jin said that, the people around came to,

「T-Then there won't be anymore dangers?」

「Yes, all the Wood Bear were eaten by the 《Hekatonkheires》」

「Aa, that's good. In the end, we profited from the large quantity of meat from the mountain deer we caught」

「Still, Reiko was it? You don't seem different to a human. But defeating the 《Hekatonkeires》 with your form is amazing」

「To come all this way to look for Jin who made you, makes me want to cry」

With those unanimous exchanges, now with things put in order,

「Okay everyone, now that you know, disperse. It will be good if you all return home and give peace of mind to your family」

the village chief concluded, and everyone scattered. Jin and of course along with Reiko, returned to Martha's house.

「I'm back」

「Welcome back Jin... what, who is this child?」

「Welcome back Onii-chan...!?」

Martha and Hanna were both surprised when they saw Reiko. To those two Jin,

「Let me introduce you. This is my 《Automata》 named Reiko. She came searching for me when I went missing」

So he introduced.

「Nice to meet you, I am the 《Automata》 Reiko. Father has been indebted to you, I give you my gratitude」

「Father!？」

As expected the two were surprised at first, but after hearing about Reiko's hardship with searching for Jin, Martha admired her. On the other hand, Hanna's eyes looked towards Reiko with unease.

At that time, Jin's stomach rumbled,

「Well, it's already afternoon so let's hurry and have lunch. That Reiko-chan over there, is there any food you dislike?」

Martha asked while heading towards the kitchen,

「No, I am an 《Automata》 so I do not eat」

Reiko answered. Martha once again made a surprised face,

「I-I see. Then I guess 3 servings will be fine」

She said heading towards the kitchen. Jin, Reiko, and Hanna remained. That Hanna timidly asked Jin.

「Onii-chan... are you leaving here...?」

「Eh?」

「Because, Reiko-san came to take you home right?」

Hanna said with her eyes welling with tears. To that Jin,

「Nope, at the very least, I'll be here until Spring」

「Really?」

「Besides, even if I leave it's not like I won't come here again. I'll come by now and then to visit」

「Really? Honest?」

When Hanna heard that she looked visibly energetic.

「Honest, I promise」

「I'm so glad...」

Hanna was really delighted and smiled. Right then, Martha came back with bread and soup for lunch.

「Now now, it's time for lunch. Reiko-chan, are you really fine with not eating?」

「I'm fine. Thank you for your concern」

So the three people Jin, Hanna, and Martha had their lunch with a little delay. While eating, Jin talked about how there would no longer be danger from the mountain.

「I see. I can feel at peace with the danger gone」

Martha seemed relieved.

After lunch, Jin took Reiko to the workshop while Hanna took a nap after the meal.

「Well then Reiko, could you immediately go and get the materials for the 『Warp Gate』. I want to confirm the matter of the danger finally being gone for everyone」

「Yes, I understand. I'll immediately do so」

Reiko says with her black hair fluttering, and she begins to run like the wind.

「Well then, I'll make preparations to set the 『Warp Gate』 here」

He called for Gon and Gen who were on standby at the back and had them dig a hole in the corner of the workshop. This time he was not making a shelter but a small room. Jin felt it was about an 8 tatami room. It was soon completed.

He made a wall, floor, passage, stairs, hardening all of them with magic, reinforcing them, and the entrance was a door he didn't really know of. Eventually he would put up a magic barrier, but first he would go back to the laboratory once. If he can go back and forth from the laboratory it would be easier to make things compared to now.

「I have just returned」

Reiko came back with the materials in about an hour. Hanna was still taking a nap, it was indeed quite fast.

「Alright, let's immediately set it up」

He planned to set up the 《Warp Gate》 before Hanna woke up and came to the workshop. Jin hurried focusing on completing the basement.

「Connect this to that, assemble this, and combine these」

Reiko who had already done it many times had the main 《Warp Gate》 set up.

「Because this is a self-sufficient magic power type, it will be ready to use. With this simple barrier, if the wavelength of magic power is not the same as Father it cannot be used」

「Will you be able to use it Reiko?」

「Yes. Because Father poured his magic power to activate me, my wavelength is the same as your's Father」

「Is it able to take along other people?」

He may have heard things like that. For this kind of thing, Jin should have the knowledge for it, but having to look it up in his mind would take some time.

「It is fine if they are in physical contact with Father or me」

「So it'll be fine by holding hands」

「Yes」

「Alright. Let's go back once tonight. There are materials I want」

Jin says and Reiko,

「With that I have a request for Father. Could you please improve my magic power detection function?」

「Hn? Aa, because it was hard for you to search for me. Okay, I'll do it immediately when we return」

With this, Reiko became even more of an absurd 《Automata》.

CHAPTER 23

RETURN TO THE LABORATORY

「Aa, it feels kind of nostalgic」

Night, with Hanna and Martha asleep, Jin and the 《Automata》 Reiko returned to the 《Magi Craft Meister》 base, the research facility.

「It's bright even though it's night... there are magic lamps, huh」

The important areas inside the research facility are furnished with magic lamps, and because the 《Automata》 had been doing the maintenance all this time, the research facility's equipment were adequately functional.

Because of that, the 《Automata》 had passed its life of service, and had once collapsed in front of Jin. Jin then repaired it, or rather remodeled it with magic into the current Reiko.

「Well then... to start with, shall I upgrade Reiko?」

「Is that fine?」

「Aa, I'll be in your care in the future after this... Lie down over there」

「Okay, thank you very much」

In the room Reiko was remodeled, Reiko laid on the same bench.

「I'll cut your magic power temporarily」

「Understood」

When the 《Magic Drive》 stopped, Reiko's operation smoothly stopped. Since Jin had already come up with an upgrade plan for Reiko in his head, he immediately collected materials.

「Okay, this looks good」

In the storehouse there was a large quantity of 《Mana Material》 stored, from them there were two beautiful 《Magic Obsidian》 he picked out.

Next he took out 《Magic Quartz》, two of them together for the eyes. To connect them, he wrote down a 《Magic Formula》 he devised.

「Alright, magic detection, and life detection. Also long distance, magnification, night vision, see through」

Once again by adding absurd features the upgrade was finished. Then again.

「Somehow, it feels like some parts have slightly deteriorated. I might as well 《Reinforce》 it」

Jin felt that the joints of the arms and legs were slightly worn out.

「The 《Light Silver》 can't keep up with Reiko's power after all, I'll have to change it to 《Light Mithril》」

The shape of the frame could be left as, changing it to a stronger material, further coating it with a thin film of Adamantite on the exterior. With this, the durability increased by many times.

「There was too much muscles because I was in a hurry that time. But I might as well take the opportunity to thin the strands of 《Magic Fibre》 to increase the number of them. With this the flexibility should increase and the durability should improve」

It was same as a wire rope made by twisting together thin steel wire.

「I feel like this material wasn't here before... aa, it's the wing of the 《Sham Dragon》 Reiko had defeated. The 《Magic Skin》 is just perfect for skin」

Jin finished all of the upgrades he wanted to do in about 4 hours. Though the external appearance had not changed at all, the insides could be said to be powered up.

「Alright, Reiko, 《Wake Up》！」

The 《Magic Drive》 restarted. She immediately woke up as there was enough magic power used this time.

「Father」

「Reiko, how's your condition?」

Reiko got up and landed on the floor. For a little while, she moved little by little to check the condition of her body,

「It's very good. Thank you very much」

She says with a bow.

「I see, that's good. Then, we'll return to the village today」

When Jin said that, Reiko,

「Eh? Weren't you going to come stay here?」

「No, there's my promise with Hanna, and most importantly, there's no food or water here...」

From Jin's words, Reiko received some shock,

「T-That's right... Father needs to eat...」

and she felt down. While Jin was surprised that the 《Automata》 grew such feelings,

「Aa, because of that, we'll go back and forth between the village and here, you'll need to adjust to living in this environment」

「... okay, I'll do my best」

So using the 《Warp Gate》, Jin and Reiko returned to Kaina Village. Jin quietly slipped into his own bed, with Reiko standing beside it. To that Reiko, Jin,

「Hey, I'll feel restless if you stand there」

But Reiko,

「However, this is because if something terrible were to happen to Father. Also, it is unnecessary to concern yourself with me as I do not tire」

「Then are the very least, please sit on the chair」

「But...」

「Listen to what I say」

「...understood」

After such an exchange, Jin finally got a short sleep.

The next morning.

Hanna came to wake up Jin who overslept due to going to the laboratory last night. But.

「Father is still sleeping」

She was obstructed by Reiko. Hanna,

「Move. Because breakfast is ready I need to wake up Onii-chan」

「Please let him sleep for a little longer」

「The food is done!」

「Lack of sleep is not good for his health」

「If he doesn't eat, his stomach will be empty!」

「... so noisy」

Of course he would have no choice but to wake up with all the noise being made at the bedside.

「Aa, it's morning, huh. Hanna, did you come to wake me up?」

「Un!」

For some reason Hanna looked at Reiko with a face of triumph.

「...」

Reiko hanged her head.

Jin got dressed and washed his face, then went to eat.

「Good morning Jin. It's rare that you would oversleep.」

It was rare that the Jin who was always an early riser to oversleep, Martha said.

「Ee, there were various things I did till it was a little late.」

「Are you making something again? You really like to do that.」

Because Martha knew Jin liked manufacturing things, with those few words it ended.

After breakfast.

Hanna left to the yard after helping with the dishwashing. And, there awaited Reiko. Hanna avoided Reiko and went towards the workshop Jin would be in but then,

「Hanna-chan, please wait.」

Reiko called out.

「What? I'm going to the place where my Onii-chan is.」

「Could I talk to you a little?」

「I have nothing to say to someone like you」

Reiko held onto the cold Hanna,

「It goes without saying. I want to hear a story about Father」

「Onii-chan?」

For matters regarding Jin, the Hanna who was about to leave stopped her feet.

「Yes. Father immediately disappeared after he rebuilt me... because he disappeared, yesterday was the first time I talked with Father」

「So that's it...」

Because of that confession, Hanna thought Reiko was a little pitiful.

「Hanna-chan, because you've lived together with Father for half a year, I think you know more about Father than me. Therefore please let me hear a story」

With that said, Hanna's will to refuse was broken, and decided to start with the somewhat boastful story.

「... the first thing is that I was the one to find Jin-oniichan! When I went to the forest to pick up the leaves of the tea trees, Onii-chan had collapsed」

「When Onii-chan saw me drawing the water, because it was difficult for me, he made a pump for me!」

「Because he made a bicycle trailer for me, carrying the water became easier!」

「He made me a tool to sieve the wheat so that I could eat delicious bread!」

「For the stove, it has become easier to make meals. There is no need for firewood」

「He made me a ball and handball, and also played a game of tag with me. Onii-chan is really kind」

「He made the Golems Gon and Gen, and also made my Mr Horse, Mint, for me. It's really fast!」

The chronological order was disconnected, but from the fervent speech displayed by Hanna, she could hear that Jin cherished Hanna.

「Is that so? Father seems to take good care of Hanna-chan」

So, those words spontaneously spilled from the mouth of Reiko.

「I guess... so」

「Yes. That is so. Yesterday I was finally able to see Father, and had him finally repair my body that was in bad condition」

「Really?」

Hanna, who had been almost hogging Jin to herself, started feeling a little guilty once she knew that Reiko had been alone for a long time.

「Ri...ght... Reiko-oneechan would be lonely if she couldn't meet Onii-chan... I would be too...」

Hanna recalled that she was lonely after losing her parents, up until she met Jin.

「I'm sorry. Somehow, it felt like Reiko-oneechan was going to take Jin-oniichan away...」

Then Reiko gently caressed Hanna's head,

「It's okay. Last night, Father had said it. 『There's my promise with Hanna-chan』」

「Promise...」

He would stay in the village until Spring, Jin told her that.

「I see, so Onii-chan said that!」

Hanna's face brightened, to her Reiko,

「Hanna-chan, would you become friends with me?」

said holding out her hand. Hanna stared at that hand for a little bit, and eventually returned a firm grasp with both hands,



「Un! Reiko-oneechan is my friend! My best regards, Onee-chan」

「Yes, Hanna-chan」

Jin smiled while quietly watching the situation between the two in the shadows of the workshop.

CHAPTER 24

MAID

The night of the next day, once again he transport to the research facility. Jin looked around the room,

「With this vast research facility, it'll be inefficient with just Reiko」

When Jin said that, Reiko,

「There were Maid Golems when Mother was alive, but she suspended them because there was no use for them after dying」

「Ah, is it fine if I rebooted them?」

「That's fine. Do you wish to check on them?」

Saying that, Reiko led Jin to a room underground.

「Here they are」

「Uwaa...」

There laid the body of about 20 female type Golems. But, the majority of them were decayed and damaged on some part of their bodies.

「These have been damaged quite a bit」

Different from the 《Automata》, if a Golem did not have magic power circulating inside its body to run, it would quickly deteriorate.

「Making new ones would be faster」

「That is right, I apologise for my negligence」

「It's fine. Could you carry one of the bodies that isn't damaged to use as a reference?」

「Yes, leave it to me.」

Reiko has the 5 times the strength of a normal adult. Therefore she was easily able to lift the Golem and carry it to the workshop.

「You've really helped. For some reason I don't even gain a single bit of muscle by training.」

Jin casually uttered and Reiko,

「Father, have you not noticed it yet?」

Reiko asked him with a puzzled look on her face.

「Eh?」

「Because Father's body was mostly supplemented with magic power, the current basic condition is maintained.」

「So you're saying that no matter how much I train, I won't gain any muscles?」

「Yes.」

「What a thing...」

Certainly, Jin was convinced by comparing it with his knowledge. Simply put, Jin's body consists of chunks of magic elements.

「Hm? They why do I feel thirstiness?」

「Because the body's functions remain intact, so water and nourishment are needed.」

「Aa, I see... Hm? Then what about body enhancement type magic?」

In Engineering Magic, there is the body enhancement type. He might need it in the case he required strength for making something big.

「In the case for Father, there's not much meaning to it」

「That's true」

Certainly, he had tried using body enhancement magic before in Kaina Village, but there was no effect because it was not Jin's original body, so Jin believed he could not use it on himself.

「Rather than enhancing the body with magic, I think that activating the magic power in the body would be far more efficient」

For such an idea, it was something difficult for Jin as he was still not familiar with the thing called magic.

「I see, activating the magic inside the body. Was there such a magic?」

「Yes. However, because Mother could create several new Engineering Magic, Father should also be able to」

「I... see. I'll try it bit by bit. First of all though is this Golem」

In order to clear up what was before him, Jin returned his focus to the Golem.

「The material... is it perhaps brass?」

「Yes. Mother had already prepared a good amount to work with」

It was rusted and black, he could see that there was copper rust on some parts of the Golem, and so he decided without using 《Analyse》 .

「Un, it's brass. It would be better if it were cupronickel if I were to choose」

「Cupronickel? What kind of thing is that?」

Reiko asked about Jin's words. When Jin transferred his knowledge to Reiko, he did not transfer everything so it was a natural question.

「Cupronickel is an alloy of copper and nickel. It has a better corrosion resistance than brass and its movement is natural because it is soft」

The 50 yen coin and 100 yen coin are made of cupronickel. (The new 500 yen coin is made of nickel brass)

「Nickel? What kind of thing is that?」

Another thing that Reiko didn't know. In other words, the predecessor did not know it either.

「Hm? There was a lot piled up in the storehouse the other day」

Jin said, taking Reiko along to the underground storehouse.

「It should be here」

There laid a mountain of silver-grey ingots.

「So that is nickel. It certainly remained an unidentified metal after the Arsenic was separated」

「Arsenic... scary」

Arsenic aside, he had the piled nickel moved. Of course together with the copper.

「Mix 75 copper to 25 nickel」

He made an alloy with 《Fusion》. The red copper changed to a silver colour.

「So this is cupronickel. Certainly, it's a white copper」

Brass is 60 or 70 copper to 40 or 30 zinc. So the red copper turns into a yellow brass, but with about 10% of nickel it becomes whitish.

「Using these materials, I'll make a Golem」

Golems and 《Automata》 have one thing that is different which is their structure. While 《Automata》 are not completely like a human, they have a frame and skin, and on the other hand, a basic Golem is made of materials and a core.

However the predecessor 《Magi Craft Meister》, Adrianna Balbora Ceci did not make such a simple Golem.

「Even the eyes use 《Magic Crystal》」

「Yes, Mother liked to change the colours」

The magic attribute the 《Magic Crystal》 has changes with colour. Though Jin did not know that before he rebuilt Reiko.

「Alright, well then, is red, blue green, yellow, and purple about right?」

「I think it's excellent. I will immediately go collect them」

Red has a strong fire attribute, blue has a water attribute. Green has a wind attribute and yellow an earth attribute. As for purple, it has a lightning attribute.

Jin used the original Golem as a reference, making the five bodies using cupronickel. The inside is hollow, so ribs are used to reinforce it. Jin was devastatingly bad at designing a face, so he had them look like the original Golem. He planned to distinguish them with their eye colour and clothes.

「Sorry for the wait, Father. It took some time to find ones that were a good size to use as eyes」

「I was just about done with the bodies here too」

He put the eyes into the five Golems made of cupronickel. Of course after he carved a 《Magic Formula》 on them.

「Okay, all that's left is the Golem's core」

Along with carving a 《Magic Formula》 in the Golems' core, he poured in his magic power into those cores for them to operate, he further put in the 《Magi Craft Meister

》, Adrianna Balbora Ceci's, 《Ether Converter》 and 《Magic Drive》, developing a semi-permanent operating Golem (Gon, Gen and the 2 other Horse Golems also had this).

The core was a milky white 《Magic Crystal》. It had all attributes. The rainbow-coloured ones that Reiko used were a higher grade crystal with all attributes, and the milky white one was a lower grade. Although it still had enough value to build a mansion.

Other small details were improved. Because completing it in 3 hours that night was impossible, he worked and played in Kaina Village during the day, coming back to the research facility at night to work on it for about 3 hours. And like that, several days passed and the Maid Golems were made.



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Evening of the 5th day.

「It's now complete」

When Reiko said that, Jin,

「No, not yet」

「Eh?」

「After all I'll feel restless if I look at them without clothes」

When Jin said that, Reiko knit her eyebrows,

「Father, have you perhaps grown tired of me?」

Perhaps due to the influence of Hanna, Jin vaguely felt she was full of emotions.

「Why did it come to that... it's simply a problem of appearance」

「Is that so? I'm relieved」

Saying that, Reiko ran off to get the materials for clothes, and looking at her from behind, Jin muttered a few words,

「Please don't become a yandere...」

Simple underwear, black one piece, and a white apron dress. And also said to be the symbol of a maid, the white brim (headdress). Jin made one first, then Reiko immediately finished making the same thing enough for 5 people.

「Fuu, we're finally finished」

「Thanks for the good work, Father」

「Okay, well then, 『Activate』」

The 5 Maid Golems got up.

「Nice to meet you, Master」

The 5 all bowed together.

「Alright, then your names will be... let's see, Ruby, Aqua, Topaz, Peridot, Amezu」

He named them to match the colour of each of their eyes. For Jin, this was quite decent.

「Reiko, I'll be going back to sleep, but you should remain here for a little more and teach and appoint them their share of work」

「Yes, Father」

「Please treat us well, Ojou-sama」

The Golems must unconditionally abide to those with the magic power of Jin, and they recognised that Reiko with the same magic wave was a superior existence.

Anyway, with this the labour shortage in the research facility was slightly resolved, and it was decided to proceed to the indoor maintenance.

CHAPTER 25

THE BROKEN PROMISE

The season was now completely winter, and snow could be seen falling on the mountain from Kaina Village.

It is a plateau, but the precipitation from the taller mountains that surrounded the village was little, he understood that the rain and snow that fell from the surrounding mountain was damp.

「The snow won't fall if it piles up like that」

Because Jin more or less grew up in the city, he especially yearned to make a snow hut, but it was impossible in this village.

「Come to think of it, Roland-san hasn't show lately...」

Though the merchant Roland promised to come once every month and a half, the time to come had long passed, but he did not show up.

It's hard to believe that an honest in nature merchant would break a promise.

One day, a person that was not Roland visited Kaina Village.

「Jin-oniichan, Obaa-chan is calling for you!」

Jin who was making a stove using 『Magic Stone』 in the workshop stopped his hands, and went to the house.

「Jin-san, it's been a while」

There stood the Tax Collector, it was Lithia Fahlheit.

「Lithia-san, it's been a while. You seem to be well」

When Jin greeted her, Lithia,

「S-Sorry!」

she said bowing her head. Not understanding what was going on, Jin,

「Wa-, Lithia-san, please raise your head for now. I don't understand what you're talking about」

Then Lithia raised her head with a remorseful look on her face,

「For the matter regarding the Golems, I was unable to keep it hushed...」

「Eh?」

「One of the soldiers who was stationed at Toka Village seems to have talked about it upon returning to the capital...」

This was bad for Jin. At the time he was transporting the wheat, the Golem that Jin reconstructed was seen by the villagers and soldiers of Toka Village.

Lithia could not stop one mouth, and that person's mouth was not closed. The rumours quickly circulated to the capital.

According to Lithia's story,

The rumour was that a Golem appeared near Toka Village, and the rumours that the person who used that Golem was there reached the king. The king decided to order the prime minister to verify the authenticity of it.

The prime minister carefully investigated the rumour, determining that the person who used the Golem was Jin who lived in Kaina Village.

And also that Jin was the developer of the pump that was spreading around the capital in addition to creating the stove that is popular with the commoners.

The king seemed to feel that Jin was a threat when he heard that, ordering the lord that governed the area that included Kaina Village and Toka Village, Earl Walter to bring Jin to him.

「Now aiming for this village, 50 troops of the Earl are heading here, so please quickly run away!」

Lithia concluded.

「Jin...」

To Martha who had a worried look,

「It's okay. It doesn't mean it's a particularly bad thing.」

「Jin-san, saying such a thing in this situation...」

「Wouldn't running away seem rather suspicious?」

Jin said to reassure them, but he was secretly a little anxious. Lithia gave up on convincing him,

「Jin-san, being a 《Magic Craftsman》 who can control and create a Golem is precious, but it is regarded as a danger if they are not affiliated with the country. So please be careful.」

「Thank you Lithia-san. I'll be careful.」

Although with that said, he did not know what to be careful of.

For now, he decided to go back to the workshop to consult with Reiko.

「In the worst case, we may need to run away.」

「If that's the case, it's probably better if we do not use the 《Warp Gate》. We better make the one here unusable.」

「Un, regrettably.」

Immediately, they covered the basement where the 《Warp Gate》 is, to the extent they could not return even if they know the entrance.

「You are Jin right?」

An oppressive voice sounded from the entrance of the workshop. He could see a troop of soldiers covered in armour standing. It was faster than he thought.

「Ee, I am Jin, so?」

When Jin answered, the man who seemed to be the commander,

「Fu-n, we're here to take you bastard. I will show no mercy if you resist」

He said thrusting out a spear. Jin gently held it down,

「What are you talking about so suddenly?」

Saying that, the man who seemed to be the commander,

「Bastard, do you intend to defy the lord that governs this area, me Earl Walter?」

「No, therefore, why exactly am I being taken?」

To this point, Jin finally understood why Lithia said it was too late to escape.

「Fu-n, the king's orders. Obediently obey」

This country seemed to be different from what he thought from what he determined when he talked to Lithia about the tax rates. The man in front of him was the type of man to misuse the authority he is given.

「I'm not a person particularly from this country. So I don't have the obligation to obey do I?」

Gradually Jin's anger rose. Jin wasn't particular a noble character, rather he could be said to be short tempered. He may be sweet to relatives and friends, but he would not forgive those who harm those relatives and friends.

「Onii-chan!」

Hanna tries to run over, but her small body is intercepted by a soldier. No, she was pushed away, falling onto her back.

「Kyaa!」

「Hanna!」

A spear was thrust out before Jin to obstruct him, however.

「Out of my way」

Jin grabbed the spear and used 《Forming》. The spear quickly deformed into a 'U'.



「Na! The spear!」

「Bastard! You dare disobey!？」

A further 3 spears were thrust out. The one to stop them was the Golem Gon. It came rushing back from its patrol of the village when it felt its 《Master》 Jin in danger.

「Na! This golem! You bastard, so you were the culprit after all!」

「Culprit?」

Holding Hanna in his arms, Jin asked back with a puzzled face.

「Don't pretend you don't know! Golems have been making attacks all over the kingdom right now, you're the cause of it you bastard!」

「Haa?」

It was a bad thing, as the appearance of Gon and Gen had not changed much from the time they attacked Jin and the others. Although the colour was changed, the design was mostly the same.

「You still plan on pretending? I've seen it once before, there should be those among the soldiers who have too. Though the colour is different, its the same form of Golem that has been attacking people and materials all over the place」

「What?」

Jin recognised that the situation here had become the worst possible. Someone, or something, was using Golems to attack all over Cline Kingdom. The Golem before Gon also seem to be one of them.

「Ground, I should have investigated it a little more that time...」

Although it may be too late, if he examined the core of the Golem, he might have an idea of who the culprit is.

「It's no use making anymore excuses!」

The soldiers surrounded Jin. Towards Hanna who was held in Jin's arms,

「Hanna, I have not done anything bad. However, it seems I can't stay here anymore now」

「Onii-chan...」

「Until Spring, was the promise, I'm sorry I couldn't keep it. Someday, I'll come back to see you. Until then, take care」

Once he finished saying that, he secretly slipped a ruby(?) into the pocket of Hanna's skirt.

And then a single word,

「Reiko!」

「Yes, Father」

Hearing Jin's voice, the loyal and unmatched 『Automata』 Reiko blew away the 10 soldiers that surrounded Jin in the blink of an eye.

「Na! Bastard, so you're disobeying!?」

Towards the flustered Earl Walter, Jin,

「Listen, I have not done things like attacking with my Golems. However, I will take my leave here as I do not intend to be charged with a crime I did not commit」

Saying that he handed Hanna over to Martha calling over the Golem Horse 『Koma』, and mounted it. Reiko had got on ahead of Jin.

「Also another word of warning. Dare to even touch a single finger of the people of Kaina Village. I'll crush Cline Kingdom」

And then twisting the handle,

「Martha-san, I'm indebted to you, take care!」

After saying that, Earl Walter and the soldiers were taken aback and glanced back, when he then began to run towards the mountain to the north. Gon and Gen also followed after.

「W-What are you bastards doing! Chase! Chase him!」

However the feet of the Golem was quick and they grew smaller into the distance. Even so, the soldiers chased after them. Earl Walter also chased with an ordinary horse.

「Onii-chan...」

「Jin...」

「Jin-san...」

Hanna, Martha, and Lithia remained, each praying for Jin's safety.

CHAPTER 26

AFTER THAT

Jin fled to the mountains, guided by Reiko, they headed towards the cave that hid the 『Warp Gate』.

「This is the place」

It was a good location with an overlook of the base of the mountain. Jin looked out over Kaina Village,

「Even though it was a comfortable place to live, it is regrettable」

After saying that, Gon and Gen were the first to be transported. They were somehow able to cram the Golem Horse 『Koma』 into the cave and it was also transported.

Remaining were Jin and Reiko.

「Now then, because they saw us run away this way, it would be bad if we don't make this unusable」

「That is right」

「Chii, when would we be able to go to Kaina Village after that」

「I will help」

Reiko followed up.

「Un, right. Then, have it break 1 minute after we use it」

So the 『Warp Gate』 is not misused, they added those functions as default. After it was set, Jin,

「Then, let's go」

「Yes」

And then the 2 figures disappeared.

「Damn it, so they escaped」

「Zee, zee, zee...」

A plenty 1 hour after Jin's group disappeared, Earl Walter's group finally reached the summit. Already without a trail, with the weather of snow fluttering down,

「Earl, there isn't much to do here. We should withdraw before it gets dark」

so the adjutant advised,

「It can't be helped, let's go back」

Muttering his bitterness, Earl Walter and his troops descended the mountain, giving a glance to Kaina Village, and headed directly towards the capital.

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「So this laboratory is on an island」

Jin returned to the laboratory, and was guided outside by Reiko. The climate was warmer than Kaina Village. It was not enough to call it a jungle, but there is decent rain.

「It would be self-sufficient if I cultivated it」

To cultivate the field was what Jin thought. But that is still far ahead. There was something more important.

「Look for something I can eat from things like trees」

「Understood, Goshujin-sama」

Reiko, and the 5 Golem Maids split up their work. For now he would secure some food.

About over 2 hours, 4 kinds of fruits and 2 kinds of nuts were found. Also, there also seemed to be what looked like a rubber tree.

After confirming it was not poisonous with 『Analyse』, he immediately tasted them.

『Un, this is sweet and delicious. This one is bittersweet. As for this, it's sweet but a little dry. This is sour』

Each fruit had a taste close to peach, orange, apple, and lemon.

The nuts were similar to a walnut and a Japanese chestnut.

『It looks like I'll be able to somehow eat. Well then, collect 20 of each fruit and about 10kg of each nut』

Ordering the Golem Maids, Jin went back to the research facility.

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『YOU FOOL!!』

In the capital of Cline Kingdom, Earl Walter received a reprimanding from King Alois III after returning to report.

『I was going to have that person Jin to serve the Kingdom when he was brought here. And to treat him like a criminal! Finally getting angered, he escaped! What if he goes and serves another country!』

『M-My deepest apologies... h-however, that person could control a Golem, so he may have been a harm to our country』

『I've already received reports for that. Jin captured that Golem with a never before seen magic, and rebuilt it to obey him』

『No way!』

With this, Jin's innocence was proven as Lithia had quickly returned to capital to fix the incident with her report. In doing so, she was to be reprimanded for hiding the truth, but as Jin had asked her and reporting Jin's true strength that was seen personally by Lithia, it was written off. And so the king and prime minister wanted Jin who was a talented individual.

「It is fine now, go back. From now on it is prohibited to meddle around with Kaina Village. Understand?」

「Ha, hahaa」

If they were to provoke Jin who ran away any further, there was a possibility he might become their enemy. Thinking about the true strength he heard from Lithia, he thought to avoid that.

「It seems it didn't turn out well...」

Cline Kingdom's King, Alois III gazed up to the sky and heaved a sigh when he was alone.

◊ – ◊ – ◊

「Onii-chan...」

Every morning, and every time she drew the water from the pump, Hanna remembered Jin.

Since then, Earl Walter returned by passing through the village and did not retaliate at all. Martha and the entire village were worried about Jin who fled to the mountain.

「Heey, besides him there's Reiko-chan and they're riding the horse, so they'll be fine」

Rock made that statement.

Because the villager did not know about the 《Warp Gate》, they thought Jin was hiding in the mountains. And sometimes, they went searching for Jin in the mountain with the remaining Golem Horses, but of course there was no result.

Then one day, Lithia visited the village.

「Oya, Lithia-sama, what is it?」

The village chief who met her asked Lithia who had a cheerful face.

「Be delighted, the suspicions on Jin-san have been cleared」

「Ee!」

「And directly from the king, as an apology for this misunderstanding, he invited Jin to the capital and wanted Jin to serve him. In that case, it was guaranteed that the lowest position he would be given would be 『Royal Magic Craftsman』」

「Hou! That's amazing!」

The village chief was impressed. The 『Royal』 in 『Royal Magic Craftsman』 to begin with, correspond with the treatment of nobility.

「So, where is Jin-san?」

「That is, there's been no news from him since then」

「Is that so...」

Although they were honestly glad that Jin was recognised, the villagers of Kaina Village could only be half glad as the main person Jin remained missing.

